

Qadhafi urges unity with Sudan, Egypt

KHARTOUM (R) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi called Sunday for immediate unity between Sudan, Egypt and his country and said Cairo's peace treaty with Israel should not sour relations with Khartoum. Qadhafi was speaking at the closing session of a constitutional conference which recommended a Libyan-style system of popular congresses for Sudan. Libya and Sudan signed a pact in March providing for close political, economic and military cooperation as a prelude to a merger by 1994. Sudan's military leader General Omar Hassan Al Bashir, who seized power from an elected government in June 1989, said on Saturday the two states would unite as soon as possible. Adopting a conciliatory note, for tense relations between Sudan and Egypt. He said Egypt signed the treaty because it had fought a war and was compelled to do so — a reference to the 1973 war with Israel. Qadhafi described Sudan, Libya and Egypt as the heart of the Arab Nation, saying the rest were only wings.

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Algerian general volunteers for Iraq

ALGIERS (AP) — Former army Chief of Staff General Mustafa Benbouci offered Sunday to place himself under the command of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to "serve the Arab cause." In a letter to the official newspaper Al Moudjahid, Benbouci declared that Iraq's powerful military machine, which includes missiles and chemical weapons, "incarnates the refusal of the Arab Nation to let itself be humiliated." President Chadli Benjedid removed Benbouci from his post in 1986 for reasons that have never been officially explained. The letter to Al Moudjahid constitutes one of his rare public statements. "The Iraqi army's level of science and technology constitutes our pride, it is the heritage of the entire Arab nation," wrote Benbouci, offering to place "his modest abilities at the service of the Arab cause." Benbouci denounced the U.S.-led multinational force lined up against Iraq as a "gigantic crusade." The letter comes two days after about 1,000 children and teenagers staged a protest at the U.S. embassy against the embargo.

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Nigeria sends message to Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — Nigerian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Zakari Ibrahim arrived here Sunday, with a message to His Majesty King Hussein from Nigerian President Ibrahim Babangida. The message deals with the issue of mutual concern. In an arrival statement Ibrahim said his country's position vis-a-vis the Gulf crisis was in line with the United Nations Security Council resolutions on the crisis. He added that his country was concerned over the developments in the region, because their effects "are not only restricted to the region, but also extend to the whole world." The Nigerian minister will fly to Baghdad Monday to deliver a message to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

4 parties to boycott Egypt polls

CAIRO (Agencies) — Four of Egypt's main opposition parties announced Sunday their boycott of next month's parliamentary elections in protest against unfair voting conditions. This would leave President Hosni Mubarak's National Democratic Party (NDP) virtually unchallenged. The opposition New Wafd, Labour and Liberal parties and the Muslim Brotherhood are protesting conditions which they say encourage rigging elections.

Freed German flies to Amman

AMMAN (R) — A German released by Iraq flew to freedom Sunday and another one was due to arrive in Amman Monday. The middle-aged German man released to give his name or talk to reporters at Amman airport after arriving on an Iraqi Airways plane from Baghdad.

Iraq appoints new minister

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq has appointed a former ambassador to the United Nations, Mohammad Sa'ed Al Sahaf, as minister of state for foreign affairs, Baghdad Radio reported. The portfolio has been vacant since June last year when the then minister of state, Saadoun Hammadi, became deputy prime minister.

Maktoum appointed vice-president

ABU DHABI (R) — Sheikh Maktoum Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, ruler of Dubai, was appointed vice-president and prime minister of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Sunday, formally taking up the posts of his late father. The official UAE news agency said UAE President Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahayan announced the appointment.

Swedish envoy meets Iraqi official

STOCKHOLM (R) — A Swedish emissary sent to Iraq to negotiate the release of about 90 Swedish held there said Sunday he had met an Iraqi Foreign Ministry official and would hold more talks this week. Peter Oswald, head of the Swedish Foreign Ministry political section, told Swedish radio he had met Iraqi Foreign Minister Nizar Hamdoun Saturday.

Military plane crashes in Gulf

DUBAI (R) — A military plane crashed into the Gulf off the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Sunday, aviation sources said.

Algeria seeks to postpone meeting

TUNIS (R) — Algeria has asked for the postponement of Monday's Arab League Council meeting in Tunis.

Israel says 4 guerrillas killed

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israeli-allied Lebanese guerrillas killed four Lebanese guerrillas in a firefight north of Israel's self-proclaimed "security zone" in Lebanon, army officials said.

Palestinian kills 3 Israelis in apparent revenge for massacre

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — A Palestinian teenager stabbed three Israelis to death in West Jerusalem Sunday apparently to avenge last week's massacre of Palestinians in East Jerusalem, police said.

Angry Israelis stoned Arab cars and right-wing politicians called for the death penalty for "terrorists" after the dawn attack in a quiet Jewish neighbourhood. Police named the attacker — caught as he lay pinned to the ground under the body of one of his victims — as Omar Abu Sirhan, 19, a plasterer from Abadiya village, near Bethlehem.

Shouting "God is great," he knifed a woman soldier, a garden nursery owner and a member of an elite police unit, police said. It happened just before 7 a.m. (0500 GMT) in the south Jerusalem neighbourhood of Baka, and ended with residents seizing the assailant. Police arrested him at the gates of a nursery school. The attack was claimed in separate phone calls by two groups as retribution for the Oct. 8 blood-bath in East Jerusalem, when police fired into a stone-throwing mob and over 20 Palestinians died.

Vengeful Israelis stoned Arab-owned cars on a Jerusalem highway and shouted "Death to the Arabs" resounded in the streets of Baka. Jerusalem's Israeli mayor, Teddy Kolek, appealed for calm, saying the attack was "a tough test of people's patience and tolerance."

Some Israeli politicians demanded broader powers for troops and police to fire on attackers. Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's senior adviser, Avi Pazner, put indirect blame on the U.N. Security Council. He said its condemnation of Israel for the Oct. 8 massacre created "an atmosphere that incites extremist actions against innocent Jewish civilians."

After the Oct. 8 killings, leaflets distributed by leaders of the 34-month-old Palestinian uprising called for vengeance in these "bloody days of total escalation." According to police accounts, Sunday's rampage began when the assailant plunged his 40-centimetre blade into the chest of Iris Azulai, an 18-year-old woman soldier, outside her home.

He ran to a nearby street where he slightly injured a 13-year-old boy, Amikam Kovner, then assaulted a 43-year-old gardener, Eli Elhratz, stabbing him fatally in the chest.

Chelouche, wearing civilian clothes, fired two warning shots in the air and two more shots in his legs, but the attacker managed to stab him in the chest. They struggled in a dusty lot outside a pre-school for three- and four-year olds.

Israelis tried to set fire to an Arab car after they gathered at the scene of the attack — a middle-class area near the road to Bethlehem, a busy entry for Arabs working in West Jerusalem.

Witnesses said the crowd beat a neighbour, known to back dialogue with Palestinians, and scuffled with journalists. The crowd then moved onto a main road and stoned about six Arab cars, which have different number plates from Israeli vehicles. There were no reports of casualties.

In August a Palestinian was beaten to death and several wounded by Jews during a week of anti-Arab rioting after two Jewish youths were found stabbed to death in an Arab district.

About 2,000 police and paramilitary troops rushed to potential flashpoints in the city. Arab workers hurried back into Arab East Jerusalem and the occupied West Bank to escape reprisals. Near the scene of the attack police arrested an Israeli holding a petrol bomb he apparently meant to hurl at an Arab car. Arab labourers at a building site were evacuated under heavy police guard as Israelis surrounded them. Sirhan worked for an Israeli building contractor.

Callers claiming to represent three Palestinian groups telephoned news agencies to say they carried out the stabbings. They were Islamic Jihad's Al Aqsa battalion and Force 17. One of the callers insisted the Force 17 unconnected with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) group of the same name. Police sources said the attacker, a Muslim fundamentalist, could have acted alone.

The Hamas Islamic resistance group called for revenge killing after the Oct. 8 massacre. In Amman, the extremist Islamic Front for the Liberation of Palestine claimed responsibility.

In a telephone call to the Associated Press, an anonymous spokesman said "this operation was launched in response to the escalation of the Zionist terrorism against the Palestinian people, especially recently."

The spokesman identified the assailant as a Hebronite who wanted to avenge the Oct. 8 killings.

"It is the beginning of a new phase of armed confrontation inside the territories," the spokesman said in a three-minute telephone call.

Heath said Saddam had shown no sign that he was considering a total or partial withdrawal from Kuwait, but the British statesman called for more diplomatic action from the West.

"I don't quite frankly believe that enough is being done on the diplomatic front," he said. "One also needs a response from the other parties involved."

Baghdad, fighting a U.N. trade embargo over the invasion, last week denied a Soviet news report that Iraq might quit most of Kuwait if it could keep a disputed oilfield and two islands which command Iraq's access to the Gulf.

"The emphasis on diplomatic action was very considerable and what he (Saddam) wants to see is a stable order in the Middle East as a whole," Heath said.

Saddam called on Aug. 12 for a global solution to all the problems of the Middle East including the Gulf crisis and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The United States, Britain and other members of the anti-Iraq alliance at the U.N. reject linkage between the issues.

Heath said Saddam had been sympathetic to the view that detaining foreigners did not help a diplomatic solution but had given no sign that he would stop holding men at military installations and other strategic sites.

"The belief remains that this is a protection against a sudden American attack," Heath said. About 1,400 Britons are trapped in Iraq and Kuwait, the biggest number of any Western country. About 270 of them are being held at strategic sites.

Saddam has responded to visits by several foreign officials and parliamentarians by releasing small groups of Westerners.

In late August, he freed all 140 Austrians, after Austrian President Kurt Waldheim flew to Baghdad to meet him.

He also was a foe of Christian warlord Samir Geagea, whose Lebanese Forces militia fought a four-month war with Aoun's troops for mastery of the Christian hinterland early this year.

No group claimed responsibility for the slayings, which were branded by Christian and Muslim leaders alike as an attempt to block a peace plan brokered by the Arab League to end the civil war.

Police said five uniformed assailants riddled the Chamoun with bullets from pistols equipped with silencers in their fifth-floor apartment in the hilltop Beirut suburb of Baabda.

Chamoun, his wife Ingrid Abdul Noor, 35, and their son Tarek, 7, died instantly. The other son, Julien, 5, was taken to the nearby Saint-Coeur du Liban hospital, where he died 15 minutes after admission, police said.

The Christian leader's 11-month-old daughter, Tamara, escaped unharmed. Reporters saw her held by her 65-year-old weeping Lebanese governess at the apartment.

Chamoun's hunting dog, Skipper, apparently was beaten by the attackers. When rescuers came in, they found the pointer limping in pools of blood and whimpering over the bodies.

The blonde-dotted white dog followed the rescuers down the stairs as they carried the bodies to ambulances. Policemen had to hold it back when the ambulances sped away.

The assassins arrived in two cars at the entrance to the nine-storey building at 6:30 a.m. (0430 GMT), while four guards assigned to protect the Chamoun family were changing shifts.

"The assassins snuck in at the moment of change and forced the janitor at gunpoint to climb five flights of stairs to Chamoun's apartment," said a police spokesman.

The janitor, identified only as Abu George, knocked on the door. Police said Chamoun told the governess, named Jeanette, to open it.

"Mr. Chamoun was in bed when the door was knocked," he told army investigators. "When I opened it he had come out of the bedroom. One of the assailants took him by the arm and then shot him. Others forced me and another maid into the bathroom and locked the door. But I glimpsed Mrs. Chamoun rushing out of the bedroom and being shot."

"When we got out of the bedroom after the gunmen left, I found Tarek's body on the floor of his bedroom while Julien was still breathing underneath his bed," she said.

Chamoun had six bullets in the head, two in his left shoulder and one in his chest. His half-German wife was riddled with 11 gunshot wounds and Tarek had only one bullet wound in his forehead. Julien suffered two gunshot wounds, the police spokesman said.

Hawi's prime minister, Salim Hoss, drove from west Beirut to inspect the scene of the crime before the bodies were removed. It was his first visit to Baabda since 1985, when Muslim cabinet ministers boycotted former President Amin Gemayel after he clashed with Syria.

Chamoun, wife and children shot dead

BAABDA, Lebanon (Agencies) — Hooded gunmen killed Christian leader Dany Chamoun, his wife and two small sons at their home Sunday, shocking a country already traumatised by 15 years of civil war.

The daybreak killings came a week after President Elias Hrawi's army and Syrian troops crushed rebel General Michel Aoun's mutiny in Lebanon's Christian heartland.

Chamoun, 56, the younger son of the late President Camille Chamoun and a staunch Aoun supporter, was an outspoken critic of Syria's military presence in Lebanon.

He also was a foe of Christian warlord Samir Geagea, whose Lebanese Forces militia fought a four-month war with Aoun's troops for mastery of the Christian hinterland early this year.

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His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan expressed his frustration with the way Jordan was being treated. "We are scrupulously implementing the U.N. sanctions, yet we are still being penalised by Saudi Arabia and the West. Jordan is being pushed into the Iraqi camp, into an extremist frame of mind," the Crown Prince was quoted as saying in the same report.

"We are drifting towards disaster," the King said, in his first interview with a British newspaper since the Gulf crisis began. "It is irritating in the extreme, and humiliating, to see Jordan so badly treated."

The King said there was little understanding in the international community of Jordan's unique problems as a small, poor country, wedged between the military monoliths of Iraq and Israel. He feels particularly bitter at the lack of support from British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, given the historic connection between the two countries. "Our

leading role in efforts to find a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis, Jordan feels its endeavours are not sufficiently appreciated although its aim is to attain peace. His Majesty King Hussein was quoted Sunday as saying. The King, in a report published in the London Sunday Times, emphasised Jordan's determination to pursue all possible endeavours to find a solution to the Gulf crisis to save the whole region from an explosion. "My greatest fear is that if an explosion does occur nobody can foresee the result and the wounds will be with us for generations," the King said.

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King: Jordan is badly treated

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U.S. said to have pushed Iraq to seek higher oil price

LONDON (J.T.) — Washington was deeply involved in President Saddam Hussein's pursuit of higher oil prices in the months leading to the invasion of Kuwait, the Observer reported Sunday.

One of America's top Middle East experts — a former ambassador still used by the Bush administration for foreign policy missions — held a discreet meeting with an Iraqi minister in New York in January, according to the Observer.

The minister, a close Saddam associate, was told that Iraq should engineer higher oil prices to get it out of its economic fix.

The country was broke after its war with Iran. As a result of this meeting, a Washington think tank then proposed that Iraq push for an oil price of \$25 a barrel, and that it should take the initiative in forcing the increase on its fellow OPEC members. Saddam did precisely that, and backed his demands by troop movements on the Kuwaiti border, the weekly said.

According to the Observer, the U.S. ambassador to Baghdad had already told the Iraqis: "We don't have an opinion on inter-Arab disputes such as your

border dispute with Kuwait, and (we) have directed our official spokesman to reiterate this stand."

Moreover, while Iraq was starting army manoeuvres on Kuwait's borders, the U.S. was actively attempting to "appease Saddam."

Finally, when clear warning was given by executives at Shell and BP that Iraq was going to invade Kuwait to take the Rumaila oilfields and offshore islands, an Iraqi envoy, Sadoun Hammadi, said with confidence: "The U.S. will not do anything. The evidence suggests that

U.S. complicity with Iraq went far beyond miscalculation of its intentions. Leaked tapes of a meeting between the U.S. ambassador in Baghdad, April Gaspie, and Saddam just before the invasion, coupled with evidence of U.S. State Department officials to the Senate, have built up a picture of active U.S. support of the Iraqi President.

In view of Saddam's expressed claims, the U.S. refusal to make any security commitments to Kuwait was not a neutral act. It looked like a green light to Saddam, if not to invade Kuwait, at least to take the Rumaila oilfields.

Turks under curfew for census

ANKARA (R) — Turkey confined its citizens to their homes Sunday for a nationwide census but said it was the last headcount to be carried out under curfew.

Cities, towns and villages from the Aegean coast to mountains near Iran and the Soviet Union were empty except for security forces, ledger-carrying enumerators and a few foreign tourists.

The nine-hour daytime curfew caused queues at video shops and food stores Saturday as residents prepared for the census, the first in five years.

The normally bustling street markets were closed. Soccer matches were played Saturday instead of Sunday.

Emergency services such as police, fire brigades and hospitals were on standby but there were no domestic bus, train or airline services during the curfew.

The census is expected to show an approximate rise of two million people from the 1985 figure of 55 million, officials say.

"It is frustrating to stay indoors but thankfully this will be the last curfew for a census," Ankara resident Ahmet Kaya said, peering through a window at a late burst of summer sun.

Orhan Guvenen, head of the State Statistics Institute (SIS) which conducted the headcount, said it would be the last time people would be confined to their homes for a census.

With computerised population statistics, future censuses will be held every 10 years and compiled by mail questionnaires.

"We expect the population to have reached 57 million and we hope to have the preliminary results out by next Wednesday," Guvenen told reporters Saturday.

An army of 530,000 enumerators, mainly minor civil servants and teachers, conducted the headcount and posed 34 questions to all adults.

The questions were on education, employment, family size and child mortality. But, for the first time, there was no mention of religion, mother tongue and physical handicaps.

Iraqi forces training with American weapons

WASHINGTON (R) — Iraqi military forces are learning how to operate sophisticated U.S. Hawk anti-aircraft missiles and radar captured after their invasion of Kuwait, the Washington Post reported Sunday.

Quoting unnamed U.S. officials and government analysts, the Post said Iraq had captured about 150 of the missiles, which could, in the hands of properly trained technicians, pose a substantial threat to U.S. and allied aircraft.

The sources said U.S. concern intensified last week when electronic intelligence in the region detected the first signs of Hawk radar operating at a test site for air defence equipment near Baghdad.

The Post reported separately that President George Bush had

sent a message to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein just days before the invasion of Kuwait on Aug. 2. Bush told Saddam the United States would improve relations with Baghdad but expressed concern about Saddam's threat to use force against his neighbours.

The presidential message was drafted after U.S. ambassador April Glaspie was summoned by Saddam on July 25, and after Washington officials had received a report about her meeting, unidentified administration sources told the newspaper.

Bush's message was to have been delivered to Saddam by Glaspie, but the Post said she did not see him again before the Iraqi invasion. The newspaper said Glaspie had instead delivered the message to Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz.

Most in U.S. want to wait before Gulf strike

NEW YORK (R) — Seventy-three per cent of Americans think President George Bush should wait to see if sanctions force Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait before taking military action, according to a poll released Saturday.

The Newsweek magazine poll found that 69 per cent of those questioned felt Bush should pay more attention to finding a diplomatic solution to the crisis sparked by Iraq's Aug. 2 takeover of Kuwait.

But 59 per cent said Bush should insist on an Iraqi withdrawal with no concessions, despite reports that Baghdad would pull out in exchange for either disputed oil fields or a strategic offshore island.

The poll found that 73 per cent believe Bush should wait to see if diplomatic and economic sanctions are effective before ordering a swift military strike.

Forty-three per cent said that even if Iraq pulls out of Kuwait, Bush should order military action to eliminate either Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's war-making capability, Saddam himself, or both.

A nearly equal 47 per cent think the United States should not take action for either reason. The poll has a margin of error of four percentage points.

Anti-war activists mobilised across the United States on Saturday and demonstrated against the presence of U.S. troops in the Gulf. There were no reports of violence.

The protests, organised by diverse groups including labour unions, veterans associations and church organisations, were held in New York, Atlanta, Boston, San Francisco and several other cities.

Organisers also planned later demonstrations in Los Angeles, Chicago, Honolulu, Houston, San Diego and Seattle.

Gulf newspaper gives report on 'Iraqi pullback'

BAHRAIN (AP) — A Gulf newspaper Sunday alleged mysterious Iraqi pullbacks — at least from parts of Kuwait — over the past two nights.

"The Iraqi forces have started an organised withdrawal over the past two nights," said the Sharjah-based Al Khaleej, reaching Bahrain in a front-page report that was unattributed.

The paper itself said the dimension and implications of the purported pullbacks were not clear.

"Hundreds of tanks and armoured vehicles and armoured personnel carriers have been sighted heading towards north Kuwait, specifically to the region

of Matla where they are setting in the plains there, above the city of Jahraa," it said.

The paper said the retreating Iraqi forces were specifically grouping around a fence that was reported going up in the country last week.

Fleeing Kuwaitis attending a Kuwait conference for prominent figures with their government in exile in Jeddah last week had reported that the Iraqis were putting up a fence in the region of Matla, surrounding the islands of Warba and Bubiyan and the Rumailah oilfield. These are the areas that Iraq claimed before its Aug. 2 invasion.

The withdrawal was noted to be "intensive and quick and takes place during the night and until dawn, ceasing altogether at daylight," the paper said.

It also reported that "a number of front positions and principal inspection points" have been evacuated.

On the other hand, the report noted that no movements were sighted from Wafr and the regions bordering Saudi Arabia.

"It remains unknown whether those quick withdrawals are part of an Iraqi tactical movement to be exploited for political manoeuvres, coinciding with intensive

peace efforts by a Soviet envoy in world capitals, or part of a plan to improve forward defensive positions of Iraqis in northern Kuwait, or whether it is all linked to a Baghdad political decision to pull back from Kuwait," Al Khaleej wrote.

Al Khaleej also reported that Iraqi nationals have also been barred from visiting Kuwait "without advance permits," saying this "raises more questions about the nature of the Iraqi decisions and the extent of their connection with the Baghdad command's political intentions, which the next days or weeks might clarify."

Afghan rebels call off planned attack on Kabul

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Guerrillas have called off a planned attack on Kabul, indicating that the two most bitter rivals in the resistance may have set aside their bloody feud, guerrilla and diplomatic sources say.

Guerrillas had stepped up rocket attacks on the Afghan capital early this month and were preparing a major offensive against the city of 1.5 million, said the sources, requesting anonymity.

But more moderate rebel factions opposed the planned attack and were planning to block it. The moderates said the offensive would result in heavy casualties because the rebels lacked the means to neutralise the well-equipped Afghan air force that protects the heavily fortified city.

"The offensive has been called off because of pressure from all sides," said one Western diplomatic source, speaking on condition of anonymity. "It was a bad idea. It's not going to happen."

The offensive was to have been led by Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, the most radical and anti-Western of the seven U.S.-backed resistance leaders.

The sources said the decision to call off the attack indicates Hekmatyar may have agreed to work more closely with the other guerrilla commanders, including his rival Ahmad Shah Masoud, to put pressure on President Na-

jibullah and his Soviet backers to settle the 12-year-old war.

When the last Soviet soldiers pulled out of Afghanistan in February 1989, the resistance predicted that Najibullah's government would fall within months and form a government-in-exile to replace it.

But the Afghan armed forces, bolstered by a massive infusion of Soviet weapons and supplies worth several hundred million dollars a month, have held their ground.

Meanwhile, the government-in-exile has been deeply divided by internal feuds and now is dismissed as moribund by its backers.

Washington and Moscow were reportedly closer than ever to an agreement that would extricate the superpowers from the bloodiest and costliest conflict of the 1980s.

"The pressure is increasing for the Mujahedeen to do something, anything before next month" when U.S. Secretary of State James A. Baker and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze are scheduled to meet, said one guerrilla source, requesting anonymity.

But with the end of the summer fighting season less than a month away, the guerrilla commanders who control the weapons and territory inside Afghanistan decided to take matters into their own hands.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

U.S. warship fires warning at Iraqi vessel

LONDON (AP) — A U.S. warship fired shots across the bow of an Iraqi tanker in the Gulf early Sunday, Britain's domestic news agency reported. The destroyer O'Brien fired two volleys of warning shots when the Al Bahar Al Arabi refused to answer its radio and ignored commands to stop. Press Association reported in a dispatch from the Gulf. Correspondent Ian Graham, aboard the British destroyer Gloucester, said the tanker had left an Iraqi port and naval forces in the central Gulf believed it was carrying cargo. The Italian frigate Libeccio was sailing with the O'Brien, he said. Graham reported that warships in the forward sector of the central Persian Gulf went to an advanced state of readiness in case of an Iraqi military response.

Bangladesh forms task force

DHAKA (R) — Bangladesh has set up a task force to help the tens of thousands of expatriate workers who have returned from Kuwait and Iraq, many of them penniless, officials said Sunday. The task force, headed by Labour and Manpower Minister Sirajul Haque Khan, will seek to formulate a pragmatic programme for the rehabilitation of the repatriated Bangladeshis, an official said. There were 70,000 Bangladeshis working in Kuwait and 15,000 in Iraq when Iraq invaded Aug. 2. By Saturday 62,030 had returned home and up to 3,000 more were expected in Dhaka in the next week.

Police arrest suspects in Cairo attack

CAIRO (R) — Police arrested three men they believe attacked a guard last July outside the residence of Bahrain's ambassador, Egypt's Middle East News Agency (MENA) said Saturday. The attackers hit the guard in Cairo's Dokki neighbourhood in the back of the head with a sharp object, then stole his pistol. MENA said the three suspects were arrested while trying to hold up a jewellery store recently and police identified the pistol. Police originally believed the attack might have been political and possibly linked to another attack four days earlier in the Cairo suburb of Maadi, in which two guards were shot and wounded.

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Jordan Times

JORDAN MARKET PLACE

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

- 15:30 Koran
- 15:40 Programme review
- 15:45 Children programmes
- 15:50 News summary
- 16:10 Local programme
- 16:30 Programme review
- 16:40 News in Arabic
- 16:50 Arabic series
- 17:10 Programme review
- 17:30 Local programmes
- 17:40 News summary in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO

- 18:00 Documentary
- 18:10 News in French
- 18:15 Weekly Sport magazine
- 19:30 News in Hebrew
- 19:45 Varieties
- 21:10 Sharon's Deal
- 22:00 News in English
- 22:40 Murder She Wrote

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swefieh
Tel. 810740

Assumption of God Church, Tel.
632785

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590

Church of the Annunciation Tel.
637440

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terranova Church Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel.
623541

Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel.
628543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel.
71131

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel.
775261

Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 771751

Amman International Church Tel.
683326

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel.
811295

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-
Day Saints Tel. 815817, 634932

PRAYER TIMES

04:22 Fajr
05:40 (Sunrise) Doha
11:20 Dhuhr
16:31 Asr
17:41 Maghrib
18:18 Isha

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of
Meteorology.

The unstable weather conditions will
continue to prevail. Therefore it will be

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Hama Mansour 748364
Dr. Jamal Abu Bakr 746426
Dr. Abbas Al Hakim 891256
Dr. Abdul Majid Al Sha'er 791405
Fires pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Al Asema pharmacy 637055
Naboukh pharmacy 626072
Al Salam pharmacy 636730

partly cloudy and there will be a
chance for scattered showers. In
Aqaba, it will be partly cloudy with
northerly moderate winds and calm
sea.

Amman Min/Max Temp.
Aqaba 16/29
Deserts 15/29
Jordan Valley 20/34

Yesterday's high temperature: Amman
30, Aqaba 35. Humidity readings:
Amman 45 per cent, Aqaba 25 per
cent.

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 172, 631111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 655800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Telephone Information 637055
(directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230

Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660

IRBID:
Dr. Amjad Obekda (-)
Al Shama pharmacy 985238

ZARQA:
Dr. Nashed Ammani (-)
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalek Maternity, J. Amn. 644281/6
Jabal Amman Maternity 642462
Mathis, J. Amn. 656140
Palestine, Shmeisani 6641714
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Musharraf Hospital 6672779
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/79
Al-Abi, Abdali 6641646
Jordan, Al-Mohajir 771012
Al-Basir, J. Ashrafieh 775112/26
Army, Marka 891611/15
Queen Abla Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323

Central Amman Telephone 623101
Repair 661101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Abla Int. Airport 08-53200

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Jbn Sina Hospital (09)986732

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Princess Basma Hospital (02)273535
Great Catholic Hospital (02)272275
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(Terminal 1)

- 10:00 Damascus (RJ)
- 10:15 Riyadh (RJ)
- 10:20 Dhahran (RJ)
- 10:30 Cairo (RJ)
- 10:30 Sanaa, Jeddah (RJ)
- 10:30 Larana (RJ)
- 10:45 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
- 10:45 Cairo (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

- 10:20 Sanaa (LH)
- 12:00 Bucharest (RO)
- 12:30 Cairo (MS)
- 12:35 Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GF)
- 12:30 Beirut (ME)
- 12:35 Beirut (ME)

DEPARTURES
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
(Terminal 1)

- 12:00 Cairo (RJ)
- 12:30 New York, Montreal (RJ)
- 12:15 Frankfurt (RJ)
- 14:15 Moscow (RJ)
- 16:15 Istanbul (RJ)
- 16:45 Agata (RJ)
- 16:45 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
- 17:20 Cairo (RJ)
- 17:30 Jeddah (RJ)
- 17:45 Dubai, Muscat (RJ)
- 17:45 Abu Dhabi (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

- 09:15 Beirut (ME)
- 11:10 Frankfurt (LH)
- 13:00 Bucharest (RO)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in Jds per kg.

- Apple 650 / 520
- Banana 500 / 450
- Banana (Muhannan) 450 / 400
- Beans 350 / 300
- Cabbage 120 / 80
- Carrot 250 / 200
- Cauliflower 180 / 140
- Corn 220 / 180
- Cucumbers (large) 100 / 60
- Cucumbers (small) 200 / 150
- Dates 400 / 300
- Eggplant 250 / 200
- Figs 500 / 300
- Garlic 1000 / 800
- Grapes 400 / 300
- Lemon 150 / 120
- Mallow 100 / 60
- Marrow (large) 200 / 150
- Marrow (small) 100 / 50
- Onion (dry) 200 / 150
- Orange 350 / 300
- Pear 600 / 500
- Pepper 250 / 200
- Pepper (hot) 150 / 100
- Potato 350 / 300
- Radish 200 / 150
- Sage 180 / 100
- Sweet melon 240 / 200
- Tomatoes 90 / 50

Jordan, USSR discuss trade, economic cooperation

AMMAN (J.T.) — An official Soviet economic delegation is due here Monday on a several day visit to Jordan for talks on trade and economic cooperation with the representatives of the public and the private sectors, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

The last time such meeting took place here was in August 1989 when the joint Jordanian Soviet Economic Committee discussed launching joint projects and boosting bilateral trade.

Questions like organising trade fairs to promote the sale of Soviet and Jordanian products were discussed, and agreement was reached for each country to sell \$5 billion worth of products at each fair to be held either in Amman or in Moscow.

The two sides also discussed types of goods that Jordan might sell to the Soviet Union in order to help adjust the balance of payment which has been in favour of the Soviet Union.

In the meantime, the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Trade announced Sunday that it had set up a team to pay a visit to the Soviet Union on Nov. 13 to conduct talks on means of stimulating trade exchanges between Moscow and Amman and to study prospects of marketing

Jordanian goods in Soviet cities.

According to the announcement, the federation's team will comprise representatives of various chambers of commerce and professional and labour unions in the Kingdom.

Following talks between Jordanian and Soviet officials in Moscow in August 1989, the Soviets agreed in principle to reschedule Jordan's repayment of debts to Moscow for the years 1989 and 1990.

According to the head of the delegation to the talks in Moscow, the Soviet Union had agreed to reschedule the debt, but Jordan was still trying to tie it up with selling goods to the USSR, including Jordanian phosphate, with an annual average of 200,000 to 500,000 tonnes.

Soviet exports to Jordan in 1988, mainly iron ore, paper, machinery, timber and chemicals, were worth JD 4.5 million. Jordan, according to officials here, have been trying to sell the Soviet Union consumer goods and electrical appliances, in addition to phosphate.

The Moscow talks on debts came in line with Jordan's moves last year to reschedule repayments of its \$8 billion foreign debts.

Committee sets up fund to help the unemployed

AMMAN (Petra) — A special committee set up by the Cabinet to address the unemployment problem Sunday recommended the establishment of a special fund to tackle the problem.

The fund called "National Security and Solidarity Fund" will help finance any projects aimed at finding a solution to the problem. The fund, which is going to be a multi-purpose one, will be financed by Jordanian citizens, who will contribute 2 per cent of their income, in addition to gifts and contributions made by organisations and institutions.

At the end of its meetings the committee also called for speeding up work on the Development and Works Fund, to cater for the needs of the under privileged and low-income people in the rural areas.

The committee called for finding the best means to absorb people who applied at the Civil Service Commission for suitable

posts. It further called for the reconsideration of the recruitment criteria, issued under the Civil Service Commission Regulations.

The criteria should give priority in appointment to the first supporter of a family, irrespective of the applicant being a man or a woman.

The committee also recommended that the labour market be organised and controlled in an effective manner, in a bid to replace foreign labour force with local labour force.

The committee was formed by the prime minister to deal with the unemployment problem in the country. It comprises Labour Minister Dr. Gasssem Obeidat, as its chairman and Abdullah Nsour, Abdullah Akailah, Munther Al Masri, Mohammad Smadi, Wasef Azar, Mamdouh Al Abbadi, Awni Al Saket and Abdul Halim Khaddam as members.

Bills show Jordanians save energy at home

AMMAN — Feedback in the form of bills for consumed energy available to the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) show that members of the public have been taking heed of calls to ration energy consumption seriously, especially in the domestic fields, according to JEA Director General Mohammad Saeed Arafah.

Speaking on Jordan Television Saturday night, Arafah said that JEA and the government were encouraging this trend in view of the current economic difficulties the Kingdom was passing through and the scarce sources of energy.

Arafah said that while Jordan is producing nearly 15 per cent of its total electricity power from natural gas discovered at Al Rishah fields near the Iraqi border, the coming two years will see Jordan using the gas to generate almost 30 per cent of its total electricity needs as the generating units are being installed near the gas fields and producing additional amounts of energy.

Supporting this view Kamal Jreisat, director of the Natural Resources Authority (NRA), said that Jordan has 400 billion barrels of proven natural gas at Al Rishah, enabling it to pursue its current endeavours to gener-

ate electricity. But, according to Jreisat who was speaking on the same television panel, the search continues to ensure further amounts and once it has been established that the country possesses at least 1,000 billion barrels of gas, it will then be possible to pipe it to industries and homes.

Following the government's announcement, on Oct. 7, of a series of energy conservation measures, including the two-day weekend, Arafah said that the decision would save the country some 3,500 tonnes of fuel needed to produce electricity.

This, he said, accounts for nearly 1.5 per cent of the total fuel consumption in the Kingdom and six per cent of the total electricity consumption annually. Both Arafah and Jreisat said that oil shale, which is abundant in Jordan, can be used to produce oil if the oil prices keep rising. They also said that the shale could be burnt to produce electricity, but the scheme requires huge investments and the construction of experimental plants which only foreign firms can carry out.

Algerian parliamentarian praises Jordan's support of Arab causes

AMMAN (J.T.) — Speaker of the Algerian National Assembly Abdul Aziz Belkhadem paid tribute to Jordan for its support of the Algerian people during the war of liberation, to the Kingdom's national stand during the Israeli aggression on Egypt in 1956 and to the current Jordanian stand with regard to the Gulf crisis.

Speaking at a meeting with Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi, Belkhadem said that Jordan had always proved that "it is quick to

respond to the calls of national duty throughout its history and ever since the start of the Great Arab Revolt by the late Sharif Hussein Ben Ali."

"The current Gulf crisis has exposed many falsehoods and revealed many facts to the Arab and Islamic masses," Belkhadem added.

The Algerian official, who arrived in Jordan Saturday for a three-day visit, was briefed by Lawzi on the situation in the occupied Arab territories.

Lawzi also spoke in detail ab-

out Israel's plans and expansionist designs against the holy shrines in Jerusalem in violation of international law and the U.N. charter.

Earlier Belkhadem had met with Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Suleiman Arar to review Arab developments. Belkhadem said that Jordan was taking a very brave stand vis-a-vis the presence of foreign forces in the Arabian peninsula.

Arar called for promoting the work of Arab Parliamentary Union so that it can tackle Arab issues.

'Jordan could lose \$4 b in 1991 because of embargo against Iraq'

UNDP official urges the world to help Jordan with evacuees

AMMAN (J.T.) — A senior official from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Sunday expressed his opinion that the world community has failed to provide Jordan with proper assistance to help the country shoulder the heavy humanitarian responsibilities towards the influx of hundreds of thousands of evacuees from Iraq and Kuwait.

Dr. Mohammad Abdullah Nour, UNDP assistant administrator and regional director for the Bureau for Arab States and European Programmes, told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that helping the evacuees had cost the Jordanian government around \$50 million, but the government received only \$4 million to compensate it for its huge losses.

U.N. envoy Jean Ripert said last Thursday that Jordan would lose about one billion dollars by the end of the year and could lose four billion dollars in 1991 because of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and the U.N. embargo.

During his visit Nour said he

He expressed hope that UNDP calls would bring about further financial assistance to the Kingdom to help it carry on with its task and help repatriate the evacuees.

Nour said his visit to Jordan, which started Saturday, was complementary to the one paid earlier this month by Jean Ripert, a special U.N. secretary general's envoy, to evaluate the present situation before issuing an international call to raise financial assistance to the Kingdom.

U.N. envoy Jean Ripert said last Thursday that Jordan would lose about one billion dollars by the end of the year and could lose four billion dollars in 1991 because of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and the U.N. embargo.

During his visit Nour said he

would familiarise himself with the UNDP programme in Jordan and would discuss with Jordanian officials bilateral cooperation in providing help for the evacuees.

Among the topics he will discuss with Jordanian officials, Nour said, are the question of the environment, rationing water consumption, desertification, afforestation, the role of women in rural development and following up the implementation of resolutions taken by a general conference on women held in Cairo last June.

In another development, Nour had a meeting with Minister of Planning Khaled Amin Abdullah to discuss economic issues in Jordan and development projects in the country.

The minister briefed Nour on the current situation and the adverse impact of the Gulf crisis on Jordan's economy. He called for immediate support and financial aid in the form of soft loans and grants to help Jordan finance its imports.

Nour voiced UNDP's full understanding of the situation and echoed the need for immediate help to the Kingdom.

He said that UNDP should also increase its development projects in the country over the coming four years. UNDP Resident Representative in Jordan Ali Atiq and other officials were present at the meeting.

Queen visits Al Bassah, briefed on NHF project

Integrative approach to development launched at village outside Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Sunday paid a visit to Al Bassah village, on the outskirts of Wadi Seer, about 25 kilometres west of Amman, where she was briefed on progress of work at the Quality of Life Improvement Project being carried out by Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF).

The overall objective of the project, launched at Sweimeh in the southern Jordan Valley in August 1989, is to enhance the quality of life of the people in the underdeveloped areas of Jordan through active involvement of community members, the promotion of self-reliance among the people and the encouragement of a positive life style.

This, according to the NHF, can be accomplished through an integrative approach to development that calls for public involvement in the development process, self-reliance and self-management.

The strategy for implementation calls for consensus building and social preparation in relation to the new concept, appropriate technology application and transfer, manpower development, strengthening the capabilities of the population in planning and management, and planning and implementation of the development process. Above all, it calls for financing by the community itself of the development programmes and creating a mechanism for feed-back monitoring.

In its first phase, the two-year project, which the NHF is implementing in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and the World Health Organisation (WHO), will benefit four villages: Sweimeh; Al Bassah, near Wadi Seer; Al Hashimiyah, about 35 kilometres north of Maan; and Aimah, a few kilometres northwest of Tafila. It will later involve eight other villages which will be linked in a network with the first four.

At the beginning of the visit, Member of Parliament Ahmad

Oweidi Abbadi made a speech in which he thanked the Queen for visiting the area and reiterated "our unequivocal support to the Hashemite Throne and to His Majesty King Hussein's policies."

Speaking on behalf of the villagers, Saleh Yousef Al Abbadi said the cluster of villages around Al Bassah "suffers from very poor agricultural and veterinary guidance, health education, road maintenance, lighting and running water supplies."

The president of the Village Development Council, Salameh Abdul Latif, said the project would help improve the educational, health and agricultural services in the village. "We are prepared to participate in the implementation and the decision-making," he added.

During the visit, the Queen joined members of a local family in picking this year's crop of black olives. She also met members of the Village Development Council and the Women's Committee, which the NHF helped establish to act as catalysts for the enhancement of the community's role in the development process.

The Queen also discussed with farmers some of the problems affecting the village's production of fruits and vegetables.

Minister of Agriculture Suleiman Arabiyat announced that his ministry "will place the agricultural machines and vehicles required to spray the fields with pesticides at the disposal of the farmers and will also provide the required veterinary guidance to upgrade the region's animal wealth."

Arabiyat said farmers in the Bassah region were welcome to benefit from the rain-fed highlands development project, which provides technical and material assistance to the farmers in mountainous regions.

He urged farmers to cooperate with the NHF and other organisations that are involved in agricultural development "because agriculture is vital to the econ-

omics of the family." He noted that farming in Al Bassah and the surrounding villages is "viable, because it does not depend on hired labour, but rather utilises the efforts of all members of the family."

A survey conducted by the NHF showed that Al Bassah has a population of around 2,000, all members of the Bani Abbadi tribes. They live in three main population centres stretching from the valley to the surrounding hillsides.

About half the population are engaged in agriculture (cereals, fruits and vegetables). Their income is, however, very low because of production problems, the lack of training opportunities and unemployment. The other half work outside the village in government, military or private-sector jobs.

The village has a secondary school for boys (about 500 students from Al Bassah and the neighbouring villages) and a secondary school for girls. It has no kindergarten or nursery, even though one is needed at harvest time, when the women have to go out to the fields and help their families reaping the crops.

The survey showed that the village has no voluntary organisations, cooperative societies or youth centres and clubs.

Social Development Programmes Director of the NHF Issam Zawawi, who accompanied the Queen on her visit, said that the village's problems would be addressed through Al Noor project which seeks to develop such areas through training local communities, setting up village development councils, setting up income-generating projects and developing agriculture in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture.

Zawawi added that the project aims at improving the general environment, providing health education facilities, and setting up village development funds.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Prince receives French parliamentarian

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Sunday reviewed with the visiting member of the European Parliament Gen. Lakaz, former chief of staff of the French Armed Forces, the Gulf crisis; and the efforts made at both the Arab and international levels to find a peaceful settlement to it. The meeting was attended by the French ambassador to Jordan.

Jordan to attend pharmaceuticals seminar

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will take part in a meeting that will discuss pharmaceutical management and policies due to open Sunday in Tripoli, Libya. Head of the pharmaceuticals department at the Ministry of Health, Nayef Hamameh, who will represent Jordan in the meeting, said he will present a working paper on Jordan's pharmaceutical policy. Several Mediterranean states will take part in the meeting which is organised by the regional office of the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Arab trade talks postponed

AMMAN (Petra) — The Federation of the Jordanian Chambers of Commerce intends to request the General Secretariat of the Federation of Arab Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture, to postpone the 73rd session scheduled for Nov. 15. The postponement decision was taken in view of the current situations in the region and in line with the Arab League's present policy of not holding any regular sessions of the league or its organisations until Arab consensus is obtained.

CDD regulates Karak facilities

KARAK (Petra) — The Civil Defence Department (CDD) in Karak Governorate has divided Karak city into three sectors for the purpose of facilitating the process of providing voluntary civil defence services, director of the Karak CDD, Major Fayez Freij said Sunday. Freij said 78 shelters and 48 evacuee sites were prepared in the governorate. He said the CDD in Karak was working on preparing the people's army trainees to work at the CDD voluntary centres which were formed recently.

Karak spends JD 330,000 on rural roads

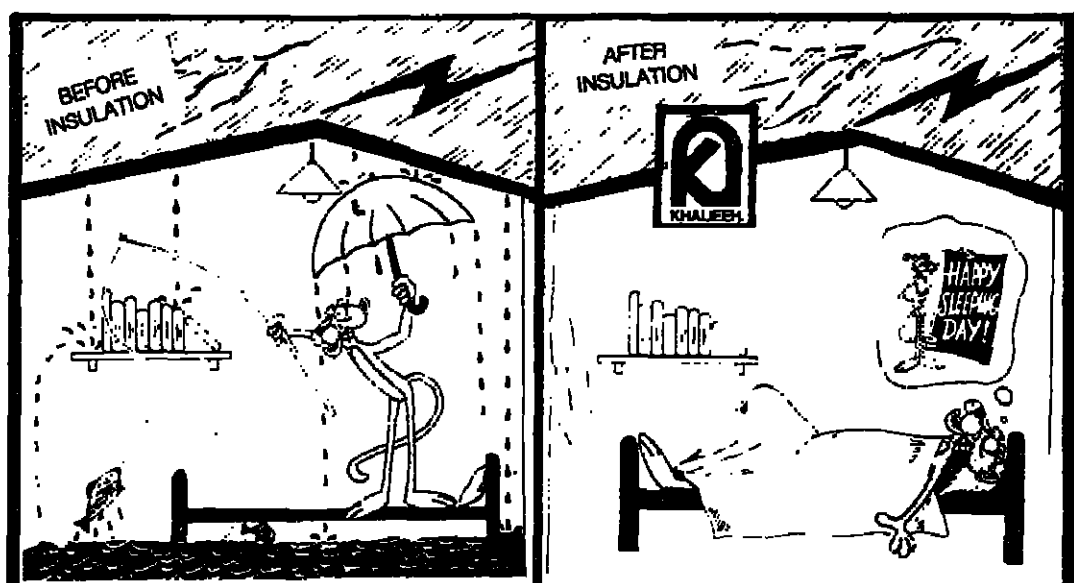
AMMAN (Petra) — The Public Works Department in Karak Governorate has constructed 266 kilometres of agricultural roads, at a total cost of JD 330,000 since the beginning of this year. The department also constructed and improved 20 kilometres of rural roads at a total cost of JD 200,000.

WHAT'S GOING ON EXHIBITIONS

Open studio and workshop for artist Samia Zaru displaying paintings, sculptures and hand-painted fabrics. Location: off 2nd Circle, opposite Rosenthal (9:30-1:30 and 3:30-6:30).

Exhibition of photos from the Goethe-Forest (between Tafbeh and Shobak) by Sigrid Neuber at the Goethe Institute.

Exhibition of oil paintings by Salwa Amareen and Haifa Amareen at the Royal Cultural Centre.



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Violence at large

THE cycle of violence continues unabated in the Middle East.

In Palestine, the massacre of scores of unarmed Palestinians on the steps of Haram Al Sharif on Oct. 8 has elicited an Arab's revenge. A 17-year-old Palestinian from a village near Bethlehem yesterday attacked and killed three Israelis with his knife. The Israelis fought back and went after Arabs to avenge the killings, by throwing fire bombs and stones at whatever Arab who happened to be passing by.

In Lebanon, the murder on Sunday of Christian leader Dany Chamoun, his wife and his two children was yet another episode of the ongoing saga which rocked that country over the past 15 years. Coming right on the heels of a solid attempt to restore "legitimacy to the whole country" at the hands of Syrian-backed Lebanese troops, the massacre casts doubts over the eventual targets of "legitimacy seekers" and the means to reach those targets.

The Chamouns will probably not be the last victims on the altar of Lebanese politics, otherwise known as problem. The altar that has been fed by the rolling heads of Lebanese at the hands of warlords and fighting militias.

The ugly and vile murder of a whole family at this juncture, when Lebanon is supposedly reaching a stage of "understanding and tolerance," proves that nothing has really changed. It seems the only thing that has changed is the reigns of command which have changed hands. The continuous bloodshed, however, has not stopped, the ugly massacres and desecrations of all that is human has not stopped.

On television a few days ago, after General Aoun's ouster, a Lebanese who had fled the eastern side of Lebanon, pleaded to the world especially the "leader of the free world — the United States —" to show some kind of compassion to the people of Lebanon. He said: "Consider us animals; at least they have rights, they have societies and organizations that protect them and fight for their rights. That is all we are asking, for the world to view us as animals and to lend us a helping hand." The same words could have been uttered by any Palestinian living under the yoke of Israeli occupation.

It is so sad when people today who belong to a world of civilized nations have to beg for human dignity and for their God-given rights to live as people, and to be regarded as people.

It is outrageous, and quite irrational when crimes like that occur, and when whole families and identities are wiped out because of their political beliefs or ideological background or nationality or race.

It is indeed tragic and ironic that peaceful countries and peoples should be tangled in an never-ending web of conspiracy, treachery and occupations. Let us hope that at least the Gulf will be spared the kind of tragedies that have befallen our Lebanese brothers, sisters and children. Instead of a new war in the region, what is needed now is dialogue and understanding. Otherwise, the region's suffering will increase and the future will be ever bleaker.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

The United Nations seems to be adopting a policy of appeasement towards Israel, which has been violating international law for 23 years, at a time when it continues to impose an embargo on Iraq which it considers an aggressor for violating international law by occupying Kuwait, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Sunday. The secretary general, who received a negative reply from Israel regarding the mission of inquiry which is supposed to visit the occupied Arab territories to investigate the killing of Arab citizens on Oct. 8, is now making it clear that the trip of the mission members hinges on Israel's acceptance of the U.N. Security Council resolution, the paper noted. It said that Iraq is not being treated by the same measure; and the Security Council, in making it its business to see that Iraq is punished for taking over Kuwait. Such a double standard on the part of the United Nations is a clear violation of international law, and a practice which will cost the U.N. organization its credibility, the paper continued. This "selective method" in dealing with nations of the world, the paper added, has contributed towards the freezing of the Palestine problem for so long, encouraged Israel to consolidate its hold on Arab lands in Palestine, and allowed the Jewish state to commit one massacre after another there.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Sunday urges the Jordanian government to immediately call for a Security Council meeting to investigate American naval harassment against Jordan and its trade. We wonder why the government has not yet lodged a complaint with the United Nations and demanded a Security Council meeting to discuss the situation at a time when the American and NATO warships force cargo vessels bound for Aqaba to divert their course or discharge shipments in Jeddah instead, asks Tareq Masarweh. Such hostile action committed by the United States or NATO warships is tantamount to a declaration of war on Jordan, something which must draw prompt reaction on the part of the Jordanian government, urges the writer. The Security Council did not authorize the United States to carry out an embargo on any country, not even Iraq, and we wonder why the U.S. forces are allowed to pursue such violation of international law and escape retribution, says Masarweh. Should the Jordanian government fail to defend the interests of the Jordanian people, the people themselves know how to protect their own interests; and there are thousands of ways for retaliating against the Americans and their interests, warns the writer. Condoning American piracy on the open seas is unacceptable, and hoping for U.N. compensation to come is wishful thinking because the U.N. organization with all its committees and agencies is under the influence of the United States, says Masarweh. Jordan is not going to see a single penny coming its way in compensation for its losses, no matter how long it might wait as, the writer says, Washington simply expects Jordan to kneel, to send troops to join the U.S.-led alliance in the Arabian Peninsula and to succumb to American wishes.

Weekly Political Pulse

What is it that Washington and London want?

SHORT of war, there is no other way to deal effectively with the Gulf crisis except through diplomacy and dialogue. If the parties to the conflict are sincere in their claims that they seek a negotiated settlement of the Kuwaiti situation, one would expect them to promote the peace process by word and deed.

One fast look at the rhetoric recently emanating from London and Washington would suggest that the two capitals do not in fact wish to promote a meaningful peace process in the Gulf. For, if war is truly excluded as a first option to resolve the Kuwaiti situation while the peace process is being nipped in the bud at every turn and on every occasion, one is forced to conclude that both President George Bush and Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher do not in fact wish Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait, and that they would

rather keep tension in the area alive and strong enough to justify their long stay on the soils and the waters of the Gulf region. Or worse still, the two countries want war with Iraq no matter what it says or does.

How else can one interpret Margaret Thatcher's statement a few days ago that even if Saddam Hussein withdrew his troops from Kuwait, London and Washington would still have to "deal" with him, meaning no less than eliminating him? What possible inducement is left for Saddam Hussein to untangle the Gulf conflict peacefully if the avowed and well publicized aim of London and Washington is to topple Saddam Hussein pure and simple? Is it not fair to conclude, therefore, that Mrs. Thatcher does not want Saddam Hussein to negotiate his withdrawal? How can one expect the Iraqi regime to enter into even the thought of withdrawal when London and

Washington are sending it one signal after the other that nothing satisfies them except the end of the Iraqi regime and the dismantling of its existence. For Saddam Hussein to accept the demand to withdraw from Kuwait under the circumstances being orchestrated by Washington and London would literally be like asking him to voluntarily put his neck in the noose. No wonder Baghdad has yet to respond openly to overtures of peace, including the sincere ones offered by French President Francois Mitterrand two weeks ago. And no wonder Iraq is forced to deny that it is contemplating a compromise formula for the Kuwaiti situation.

Yet, Washington and London have not stopped there even in the midst of persistent reports that Iraq is seeking a compromise settlement and has reacted rather positively, albeit faintly, to the French President's initiative. And in

an effort to outbid one another in the show of belligerency to the Iraqi regime, every day President Bush and Prime Minister Thatcher dream of yet another hostile idea to increase the pressure on Iraq in a bid to discourage it from even entering the peace process.

When President Bush, for example, says that children in Kuwait are being forcibly denied incubators and that two Kuwaiti youths have been shot in cold blood right in front of the eyes of their parents, and then concludes that such alleged crimes constitute crimes against humanity, it shows that his vindictiveness prevents him from seeing an opportunity for peace in the Gulf even when there is one. How can an enlightened Western leader conclude from such allegations that heinous crimes against humanity are being perpetrated by Iraqi soldiers that warrant the creation of a

Nuremberg-style international tribunal to try Iraqi leaders when much worse crimes have been committed in Palestine and Lebanon.

One is, therefore, gratified to see Paris calling Washington's bluff by asking for the investigation of atrocities allegedly committed against the followers of ousted General Michel Aoun last week. Paris has stopped short of demanding an international tribunal to try the culprits, but the message is there loud and clear for London and Washington to hear and comprehend. But both London and Washington have maintained their silence in the face of Paris's call for equal treatment for all parties caught flouting international and humanitarian laws everywhere in the area.

As if all these negative messages were not enough to milk Saddam Hussein and his government dry of any hope of talking peace with their foes,

London and Washington continued their obstinate campaign against the embryonic peace process in the Gulf by calling on the U.N. Security Council to demand economic and financial reparations from Baghdad. Can the leaders of these two capitals be so blind as not to see that what they are doing would discourage President Saddam Hussein from bargaining with them or even contemplating any peaceful way out of the Gulf conflict? How else can one interpret these increasing pressures, threats and immoderate except as clear evidence that Washington and London do not in fact want Baghdad to withdraw peacefully from all or part of Kuwait and that all they want is to keep the tension high enough to justify their continued military presence in the Gulf, or worse still, a shooting war to satisfy their own lust for vengeance and power?

By Waleed Sadi

Cyprus capital is now world's only divided city

By Alex Efty
The Associated Press

NICOSIA, CYPRUS — With Beirut's green line being dismantled after slicing the Lebanese capital for 15 years, this is the world's only divided city.

There's no sign that condition will change in the near future despite a renewed United Nations effort to reconcile Cyprus' Greek and Turkish communities.

The international climate of détente in recent months has raised hopes among the 500,000-strong Greek Cypriot majority that Nicosia's green line will soon be dismantled.

"The continuing enforced division of Nicosia is an anachronism after the collapse of the Berlin Wall and the new spirit of cooperation prevailing in the world," President George Vassiliou, the Greek Cypriot leader, said in a recent speech.

The capital of this East Mediterranean island has been split in two since 1964, when hundreds of people were killed in three months of fighting between the Muslim Turks and Christian Greeks.

The original green line snaking through Nicosia's old city got its name because a U.N. officer used a green pen to mark it on a map.

What was expected to be a temporary ceasefire line has lasted for 26 years.

It became an unofficial border extending across the island in 1974 after Turkey invaded

and occupied the northern one-third of the island following a short-lived, Athens-backed coup by supporters of union with Greece.

The occupied sector was declared a Turkish Cypriot republic in 1983, but only Turkey recognizes it.

Nicosia's green line is a maze of narrow alleyways and streets, overgrown with weeds, which form a narrow buffer zone between the Greek and Turkish sectors.

Blue-beretted troops of the 2,000-man U.N. peacekeeping force patrol the no-man's land between the decaying, bullet-hole-pocked buildings that used to be the city's main shopping area.

In some places, Greek and Turkish Cypriot forces in their sandbagged pillboxes are only a few metres apart.

A dozen people have been killed in isolated incidents along the Green line since 1974, but there have been no serious clashes.

The Greek Cypriots hope U.N. pressure on Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait will eventually force Turkey to implement Security Council resolutions on Cyprus.

These demand the withdrawal of some 35,000 troops and 50,000 mainland settlers from the north and the return of 200,000 Greeks who fled the area in 1974 or were evicted.

But diplomatic sources said pressure on Ankara is unlikely at this time in view of Turkey's growing importance in maintaining the U.N. trade embar-

go against Iraq.

Greek Cypriot leaders say it is ironic that Turkey, which refuses to implement Security Council resolutions on Cyprus, is getting financial and military aid from the United States and other nations for its stand against Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

"Such contradictions cannot be maintained under the new spirit of international unanimity. That's why we're hopeful that Nicosia's green line will soon be dismantled," said government spokesman Akis Fanis.

But there is no indication that, like Berlin and Beirut, Nicosia will soon be reunited along with the rest of the island.

U.N.-sponsored talks on reunification between Vassiliou and Rauf Denkash, president of the Turkish Cypriot republic, have been deadlocked since June 1989.

Turkish Cypriots and Turkey have shown no recent signs of willingness to compromise to bring about a solution based on a two-zone federation proposed by the U.N.

The Greek Cypriots have taken a harder line since they applied for membership for Cyprus in the European Community a few months ago, without consulting the Turks.

"Separation on the basis of different political beliefs or communal differences belongs in the past," said Glafcos Clerides, leader of the Democratic Rally Party, the main Greek Cypriot right-wing group.

The new idea...is to do

away with artificial divisions, like the one splitting Nicosia," he said.

Two special U.N. envoys are in Cyprus currently on a mission to revive the deadlocked talks, and Nelson Ledsky, the special U.S. coordinator on Cyprus, is expected next week on a similar mission.

The main stumbling block is Denkash's demand for recognition of his community's right to self-determination and his refusal to implement U.N. resolutions.

Vassiliou has rejected the self-determination demand as tantamount to recognition of the breakaway state.

To bolster his demand for international recognition, Denkash forbids movement by Cypriots across the green line. Foreigners are allowed to cross after signing a form recognising the Turkish Cypriot state.

"The right of self-determination is not something we're requesting from the Greeks," Denkash said he told U.N. mediators last week. "This right has been exercised. It exists and we won't argue about it."

Leaders of the 120,000-strong Turkish Cypriot region angrily reject any comparison of the Cyprus situation with Iraq's takeover of Kuwait.

They say the 1974 invasion was carried out to protect the Turkish Cypriot minority and to exercise Turkey's right as a guarantor state of the Cyprus constitution under treaties which made Cyprus independent in 1960.

Kaifu faces opposition

By Eugene Moosa

TOKYO — Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu's hold on power is weakening under attacks from the left, right and from other Asian countries over his plan to send Japanese troops abroad.

Powerbrokers in the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) are using the crisis to keep Kaifu in check, if not eventually topple him, political analysts said.

The premier wants to send a 2,000-member group, including units of Japan's armed forces, to play a non-combat, support role in the Gulf.

The prospect of Japan's first overseas military deployment since World War II has already attracted criticism from countries such as China and South Korea, which suffered from Japanese expansionism in the past.

"Japan's militarism started a war of aggression which brought great disaster to the people of China and Asia. It is still fresh in people's memories," the Chinese Foreign Ministry said in a statement on Saturday, referring to Kaifu's plan.

In parliament, socialists and other opposition legislators accuse Kaifu of violating Japan's anti-war constitution, which prohibits Tokyo from waging war.

Powerful LDP rightwingers are also criticising Kaifu for dithering on the issue.

One contender for the premier's office, former Finance Minister Michio Watanabe,

has said Kaifu should step down if the bill allowing the troops to go overseas fails to pass.

The measure seems doomed, according to most media polls of the finely balanced upper house, where the LDP has no majority.

In addition, Kaifu and his foreign minister could not even agree on the definition of the 300,000-member multinational force now deployed in Saudi Arabia.

Kaifu insisted that the force was created in the spirit of a series of anti-Iraq resolutions at the United Nations. The U.N. involvement would therefore provide a legitimate basis for Japan to send support forces.

But Foreign Minister Taro Makayama says deploying Japan's force would need a specific U.N. resolution. The difference has repeatedly brought parliamentary business to a halt.

Kaifu, highly popular before Iraq's Aug. 2 takeover of Kuwait, has seen his approval nosedive from 59 per cent in July to about 45 per cent last week because of the troop plan.

Political analysts said there was little chance the bill would pass and Kaifu's power was clearly on the wane.

"Kaifu may be forced to resign to take responsibility for the bill and his inability to fire (Justice Minister Seiroku) Kajiyama. That would mean general elections," said Professor Muneyuki Shindo, politics professor at Rikkyo University.

North Korea seeks new ties with former adversaries

By Mark O'Neill
Reuters

PYONGYANG — Seoul's increasing diplomatic victories have forced Pyongyang to take a more accommodating attitude to the South and look to Japan for economic aid and investment to replace that formerly given by the Soviet bloc, diplomats said.

They said German unification was a nightmare for North Korea, which saw it not as a union of two parts but as a conquest of one by the other, making it more urgent to find agreement with the South on a confederation of two systems and two governments.

South Korean Prime Minister Kang Young-Hoon returned to Seoul last week after the second round of talks with his northern counterpart Yon Hyong-Muk, the first time since the Korean War that such talks have been held in North Korea.

The two reached agreement in principle on a declaration to renounce war against the other, and northern President Kim Il-Sung said he was prepared to hold a summit with southern President Roh Tae-Woo if the declaration were signed. It would be the first ever summit between the two Koreas.

"This is progress," said one European diplomat. "While the two sides remain divided on many issues, they seem prepared to set them aside in order to reach agreement. North Korea has lost many friends in the last 20 months. It needs an agreement." One sign of the north's flexibility, said northern spokesmen

Ahn Byong-Su, was that it omitted from its proposed declaration a standard demand that United States troops leave South Korea, knowing that including this would make it unacceptable to Seoul.

Since Hungary recognised South Korea early last year, the diplomatic arena has seen successive victories for Seoul.

Nearly all the other countries of East Europe have followed Hungary. For Pyongyang, the most bitter pill was Moscow's decision last month to set up diplomatic relations with Seoul.

North Korea denounced the move as a betrayal and said Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev had sold his revolutionary principles for a loan.

"This decision turned history on its head," said one Soviet resident. "We created the socialist state of North Korea and made Kim Il-Sung its head. Now the father of socialism is giving it up while his son, in North Korea, continues it."

He said Soviet residents had been baited by Korean shop assistant who accused them of receiving \$8 a person — picking up on Pyongyang's propaganda, which calculated the value of the loan at this amount, with \$20 for Gorbachev himself.

The Soviet Union and East European countries have told North Korea that beginning next year, exchanges will be on a commercial basis, with trading in hard currency based on world market prices. There will be no more friendship deals.

It was this which induced the north to respond to Japanese

overtures after 45 years of hostility, and begin the process of normalising relations, a second diplomat said.

"Japan is now the only possible source of aid and investment. The other possible source is South Korea, which has offered trade and economic co-operation, but this is out of the question for political reasons. The example of West and East Germany shows what would be the result," he said.

A North Korean official told a reporter that German unity was not unification but conquest, with East Germany's achievements not recognised and its system obliterated.

In his opening speech at the talks, northern Premier Yon said Germany's example was no model for Korea and "would result only in prolonging national division."

The north proposes a confederation, with the two governments and separate political systems remaining intact.

The second diplomat said the north feared the south would follow West Germany and use trade along with exchanges of people, newspapers and television programmes to subvert its system.

"So it is pushing for a constitutional agreement that would preserve the system Kim Il-Sung has built beyond his death," he added.

Even China, Pyongyang's closest ally, is wavering. It signed an agreement on Saturday with South Korea to set up trade offices in each other's capitals.

Chamoun, family shot dead

(Continued from page 1)
attack against Dany Chamoun and his family... personal ties bound us to him despite differences in political points of view," he said.

Security sources said Lebanese soldiers searching for the killers searched about 40 houses near Chamoun's apartment.

Geagea has long been held responsible by former President Suleiman Franjeh for a similar raid on the Franjeh's summer villa in Ehden, North Lebanon, in 1978.

Franjeh's elder son, Tony, his wife and three-year-old daughter were killed in that attack along with 31 bodyguards.

Chamoun, inherited the leadership of the rightist National Liberal Party (NLP) upon the 1987 death of his father, who ruled Lebanon from 1952 to 1958.

The younger Chamoun sought the presidency in 1988, when Gemayyel's term expired.

But parliament was unable to meet to elect a successor. Gemayyel appointed Aoun, who then was army commander, as prime minister of a caretaker military cabinet until a new president was elected.

Harawi was elected president Nov. 24, 1989. Aoun rejected that election on grounds it was held in Syrian-controlled territory. Aoun contended that his three-man cabinet remained the only legitimate authority.

Chamoun, who sided with Aoun, was dismissed when Aoun fled his command headquarters in the presidential palace in Baabda minutes after the air-supported attack of Harawi's troops and the Syrian army began Oct. 13.

"I can't believe the general had

done this to us," Chamoun said the next day. "May God help us."

Elie Mobayed, an NLP official, blamed Harawi's government for the killing and called for full mobilisation to avenge the death of his chief.

"His blood will not be wasted unavenged even after 100 years. This is the outcome of the Harawi's government and his security in east Beirut," Mobayed said.

French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas expressed horror Sunday at the assassinations.

"The massacre, carried out in cold blood, of Dany Chamoun and his family provokes indignation and horror," said a declaration by Dumas released through the Foreign Ministry.

"Dany Chamoun had opened a perspective towards reconciliation in Lebanon," Dumas said. "It's this chance they wanted to assassinate."

Dumas did not spell out what sort of reconciliation Chamoun had sought in the week since Aoun's revolt was crushed.

Aoun has sought refuge at the French embassy in Beirut, but the government refuses to allow him to leave the country, vowing to make him stand trial for alleged crimes.

Israel, angered by the assassination of one-time ally Chamoun, accused Syria of systematic murder, rape and theft in areas of Lebanon it captured last week.

"The murder of Dany Chamoun is the latest in a lengthy list of murders and exterminations of outstanding Lebanese leaders of all faiths and sects which have been committed either by the Syrians or their messengers," a

foreign ministry statement said. Israel made few comments when Aoun was ousted last week. But the killing of Chamoun, who openly met Israeli officials in occupied Jerusalem following Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon, triggered an angry attack on Syria.

Israel said there was ample evidence that captured soldiers of Aoun had been executed and there had been murders, rapes, robberies and looting of the civilian population.

King

(Continued from page 1)
relations have passed through a difficult period," he said. "They are not as cordial as they have been."

"Why this embargo on dialogue?" he said of President George Bush's refusal to negotiate with Iraq until it withdraws from Kuwait. "The United States has been telling us for 23 years that the only way to solve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is through negotiations. Why should the situation with Iraq be different?"

He also believes Iraq has provided an opening to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian issue by linking a withdrawal from Kuwait with the need for Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza, according to the report.

Despite his country's troubles, King Hussein last week vowed to continue his efforts to find a political solution. Asked by the Sunday Times if he would consider changing his position to a line more acceptable to Washington if Jordan's situation deteriorated, he said: "No, I will stick to my guns."

In the Name of God, the Most Merciful, Most Compassionate:

"O, ye secured soul, return thee to your God both content and satisfied and therefore, enter into «the community of» my worshippers and into my paradise."

GOD IS TRUTHFUL

OBITUARY OF A GOOD YOUNG MAN

Nazik Al-Hariri Special Education Charity Centre in Amman/Jordan solemnly extends its deepest condolences to His Excellency Sheikh Rafiq Baha-Uddin Al-Hariri in particular and to all Al-Hariri family in general on the poignant untimely death of his beloved son:

The Late Hussam Rafiq Baha-Uddin Al-Hariri

who passed away as a result of an unfortunate car accident in Boston - U. S. A. last Friday, October 19, 1990, at the age of Nineteen.

We pray to Allah, the Almighty, that He usher Hussam into his mercy and heaven, and inspire his folks with patience and endurance.

All belong to God and all to Him shall return.

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Turkey plans to make 1991 'a year of thrift'

ANKARA (R) — Turkey, a frontline state in the Gulf crisis, has announced plans to tighten its economic belt next year with modest growth and lower inflation.

"We will implement a disciplined programme aimed at reducing inflation next year, 1991 will be a year of thrift," State Minister Isin Celebi told reporters.

Turkey will aim next year for 5.9 per cent economic growth, based on gross national product, after an expected nine-year high of nine per cent in the calendar year 1990, State Planning Organisation (SPO) officials told Reuters.

Under a programme already presented to the Higher Planning Board, inflation is targeted to rise 45 per cent next year. This compares with an annual 59.3 per cent gain to last September.

The original 1990 growth target was 5.7 per cent following a dismal 1.7 gain in 1989, the lowest in 17 years. This year's inflation goal was for a 54 per cent rise after an actual 68.8 per cent in 1989.

A draft consolidated budget for 1991 with total expenditures of 103.9 trillion lira (\$38 billion), up 61 per cent from 1990, targets a deficit of 20.6 trillion lira (\$7.5 billion). This is double the 1990

deficit goal of 10.5 trillion (\$3.8 billion).

Treasury officials said the budget deficit was likely to approach 15 trillion lira (\$5.5 billion) by the end of this year.

"Had the Gulf crisis not broken out, we would have set our targets at 100 trillion lira (\$36.4 billion) for the budget and at 40 per cent for inflation," Celebi said of the 1991 targets.

Economists say Turkey has to tighten belts to achieve an overdue success in fighting high inflation and to overcome the impact of the Gulf crisis on the economy.

Turkey's losses from the crisis are likely to reach \$1.5 billion by the end of this year. Officials give varying loss figures depending on different assumptions for 1991, ranging from \$4 to \$9 billion.

Exports, squeezed by a policy of low lira depreciation and reduced import taxes in 1989 and 1990, were forecast at \$14.8 billion next year against an import level of \$23.2 billion.

Officials say exports and imports are likely to be around \$12.3 billion and \$20.5 billion this year respectively after total exports of \$15.8 billion and imports of \$15.8 billion in 1989.

The current account, expected to yield a deficit of \$1.9 billion after two-year consecutive surpluses, was predicted at \$2.4 billion in the red next year.

Coutts seeks wealthy clients

LONDON (R) — Britain's Coutts and Co., bankers to Queen Elizabeth and other top people, is launching a drive to sign up overseas clients with net assets of at least \$500,000.

The 300-year-old bank, a subsidiary of National Westminster Bank PLC (Natwest), is setting up new holding companies in London and Zurich to seek out what is known in the private banking industry as "high net worth" individuals.

"We see private banking as a developing and more important market," said Henry Hopper, Coutts' director of business development. "We think we are well-placed to meet the needs of that market."

Natwest currently operates its private banking, asset management and international trust services out of London, Zurich and Nassau, Bahamas.

The emphasis is on personalised service — some private banks assign one officer to handle the affairs of a single client, provided his or her assets justify such attention.

"The development is going to be based on our existing activities in London, Geneva, and Zurich," said Hopper. "There is scope for expanding our activities in Singapore, Hong Kong, other parts of Europe and the U.S."

Private banking is a way of helping to offset the hit that British banks are currently taking on their normal retail activities, notably in the consumer lending market.

High interest rates and the depressed national property market have forced banks to almost double their provisions against bad or doubtful debts during the course of the year.

"It is not huge business in terms of overall group profits," said analyst Alison Deuchars at broker Smith New Court. "But it can be very lucrative and it is something all the banks are trying to do."

Hopper said he saw the Swiss banks as prime competitors due to their long-established experience in the field of handling the affairs of wealthy clients.

But Coutts will be drawing on the expertise of Natwest's Zurich subsidiary Handelsbank Natwest, as part of the reorganisation.

"We will be riding into the market on the back of Coutts' reputation and existing business, as well as that of Handelsbank," Hopper said.

He said he expected the new operation to be up and running by next April.

Oslo pegs kroner to ECU

OSLO (AP) — Norway pegged the value of the kroner to the European Currency Unit (ECU) Monday, the Bank of Norway has announced.

"This is a one-sided Norwegian action," said Anders Svor, of the bank's market division. He said it does not change the value of the kroner and was done without Norway joining the European Monetary System.

A news release said the government wanted to technically base the value of the kroner on the currencies of countries that had the long term goal of stabilising exchange rates.

Svor said the range of the kroner's value against the ECU was limited to 8.1739 to 7.8141, with a central rate of 7.9940.

The central bank news release said it fully supported the government decision. It said the decision would contribute to "greater predictability of nominal values and thereby a better basis for the proper allocation of resources."

The Norwegian kroner was worth \$3.8570 Friday morning.

In Brussels, the European Commission said in a statement it "warmly welcomes the decision of the Norwegian authorities to base their exchange rate policy on the ECU." "This position will help to extend beyond the borders of the Community the zone of monetary stability which has been created by the European Monetary System," the statement said.

Treasury sees limited global damage from oil price hike

Britain aims to give lead in Third World debt relief

LONDON (R) — Britain aims to take a lead in debt relief for the world's poorest nations with a new scheme to allow some to write off two-thirds of their debt.

Chancellor of the Exchequer John Major unveiled his plan at a meeting of Commonwealth finance ministers in Trinidad in September, but more details are given in the latest issue of the treasury bulletin published Monday.

Under the plan, 17 poor sub-Saharan African countries plus Bolivia and Guyana would be able to write off up to two-thirds of their combined \$77 billion debt to the so-called Paris Club of rich industrialised creditor nations.

Treasury Economic Secretary John Major told journalists the proposals improved on an existing plan which gave the same countries three options on debt repayment terms but left them saddled with the bulk of their debt compounding at commercial interest rates.

A one-off slashing of their debt burden by two-thirds, together with adoption of an international Monetary Fund economic reform package and interest rate concessions would give some countries a real chance, he said.

"If the whole lot was dealt with in one go it would give them light at the end of the tunnel," Major said.

Maples said the scheme could be extended beyond the 19 countries currently helped under the Paris Club's so-called Toronto terms shaped by former Chancellor Nigel Lawson.

For those 19 countries Major's alternative "Trinidad terms" could eliminate as much as \$18 billion of state debt. Britain's share of that would be about \$900 million.

Maples said Britain had already written off more than \$1 billion in Third World debt under other schemes, and hoped the Paris Club would accept Major's proposals.

Under existing schemes the 19 countries can write off a third of their debt and pay off the remainder at commercial rates over 14 years, reschedule the full value at a commercial rate over 25 years, or reduce the interest rate by 3.5 per cent or half the original rate, whichever is lower, over 14 years.

Maples said some of the terms were worse than what less poor debtor countries had negotiated with commercial bankers.

Under Major's scheme debtors could write off two-thirds of their burden, then pay off the remainder over 25 years.

It would also take the Toronto plans further by making the entire debt eligible for debt relief schemes, rather than countries having to do it in blocks of debt.

Commercial interest rates would be charged on the bulk of the debt related to export credits and concessional debt would be repaid at the rate charged under the original loan.

The treasury also said in its bulletin that if governments keep a firm grip on their monetary policies, higher oil prices sparked by the Gulf crisis should not plunge the global economy into the chaos of previous oil shocks.

The treasury said the world economy was in better shape to shrug off a doubling in oil prices since Iraq invaded Kuwait last August.

Global inflation is under far tighter control than during the early 1970s and 80s and the industrialised world at least has curbed its dependence on oil, it said.

"Oil is now less important to the world economy," the treasury said. But it warns that some developing countries may still be hit because their dependence on oil has grown while it has declined among the 24 members of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

The treasury said the short-term effect of the oil price rise could be modest curbs on growth and a slight rise in world inflation. But these should be cancelled out within three years provided there was no divergence from current policies.

The big danger was overreaction, of the kind which occurred after the previous oil shocks.

The treasury said lessons learned from easing monetary supply and other measures in an unsuccessful attempt to accommodate the 1973-74 oil price shock helped in dealing with the 1979-80 oil crisis.

Trying to accommodate the effects of an oil price rise by softening current tight monetary and growth policies would in the long run only produce worse inflationary effects than letting the economy adjust quickly to higher prices.

"The policy stance following the 1979 oil price shock was much tighter than... in the wake of the 1973 shock," it said. "The lesson from these two episodes is that non-accommodating policy is the correct response to oil price increases."

The treasury report stressed the conservation measures and substitution of oil which had followed earlier oil crises.

"Perhaps the most important difference... is that the world economy is generally better placed to deal with a shock of this sort than it was in 1973 or 1979," the bulletin said. The prime industrial economies were more flexible, inflation lower, and "the policy stance of governments is generally tighter."

South Korea, China set up trade offices

SEOUL (AP) — South Korea and China, once bitter battlefield foes, took a first step down a long road to normal relations Saturday by agreeing to set up trade offices in each other's capitals.

The announcement was widely anticipated. While China and South Korea have no formal ties, they have had active, if mostly indirect, trade relations and growing transport and communications links.

Even though expected, the announcement was another diplomatic defeat for rival North Korea, which last month saw its other principal supporters, the Soviet Union, recognise South Korea.

The agreement, under negotiation for a year and a half, was signed in Beijing by Lee Sun-Ki of the state-run Korea Trade Promotion Corp (Kotra) and Zhang Hongye, president of the newly established China International Trade Association.

South Korean officials in Seoul said the office would also perform some consular functions, but Chinese officials in Beijing would not confirm this.

No date was given for the opening of the offices, the first

permanent missions of either nation to the other. But Yonhap, South Korea's domestic news agency, said the offices would be opened in November.

"The government hopes that the brisk activity of the trade offices will help expand exchanges and cooperation between the two countries," the South Korean foreign ministry said.

"It also expects the office will contribute to normalising relationships between China and South Korea through improved bilateral understanding among citizens of the two countries," the statement said.

The International Private Economic Council of Korea (IPECK), which monitors trade between South Korean and communist (or formerly communist) countries, estimates Seoul-Beijing two-way trade this year will exceed \$3.2 billion and will increase about nine per cent to \$3.5 billion in 1991.

Trade between China and South Korea in 1989 was about \$3 billion, while trade between China and North Korea totalled \$562 million, according to Chinese and South Korean government figures.

Bonn may lose billions through trade abuse with East-Spiegel

BONN (R) — Fraud arising from a loophole in July's currency union of east and west Germany may cost taxpayers as much as 18 billion marks (\$12 billion), the magazine Der Spiegel reported Saturday.

It said East European states had legally exploited special rules on east German trade with the communist Comecon economic bloc to save money, but that swindlers had also found easy ways to abuse the rules.

Before the west German mark replaced the east German currency when the two economies merged July 1, trade within Comecon used a notional currency, the transfer ruble.

Exports under contracts signed before July can still be paid for in this currency, which Bonn converts into marks to pay the pro-

ducer. All other exports must be paid for in marks.

Generous exchange rates were agreed to help east Germany, so Bonn loses out by buying the almost-useless transfer rubles.

Spiegel said exporters were defrauding the government by illegally backdating contracts to before July.

Last week officials said swindlers had made 500 million marks (\$330 million) from illegal currency exchanges involving imaginary east German exports to the East before the monetary union. It was one of Germany's biggest currency frauds.

Spiegel quoted a Bundesbank (central bank) official as saying the exchange rules for trade were a flaw in the German union treaty. With the fraud, it could end up costing Bonn 18 billion marks by

the end of the year.

Comecon trade partners, eager to save hard currency, went on a spending spree in the first half of this year while they could still use the rubles to buy east German goods, it said.

They spent six billion marks (\$4 billion), almost three times more than expected, Spiegel said in the report released ahead of Monday publication.

Four people have been detained for a different abuse of the Comecon trade rules. They are suspected of having forged invoices for exports that did not exist or that were made abroad.

Vietnam takes drastic measures to cut oil consumption by 15%

HANOI (R) — Vietnam has announced drastic steps, including a ban on the import of passenger vehicles, to cut oil consumption by 10 to 20 per cent because of a serious oil shortage, an official newspaper said Saturday.

The Hanoi Moi newspaper said the council of ministers released guidelines Friday instructing government staff to use cars and motorcycles only when absolutely necessary and to rely otherwise on bicycles or walking.

"(The council) made known that at this time and for 1991 we face a serious shortage of oil products due to supplies being cut sharply and because of the Gulf crisis," the newspaper said.

It said the council ordered that no passenger vehicles or motorcycles be imported in the last quarter of this year and all of 1991 and encouraged people to use coal instead of oil for cooking or heating.

"Up to now the amount of oil products for retail sale and consumer use is too big, higher than what the country can provide," the newspaper reported the council as saying.

At current world prices Vietnam would have to pay \$100 million for oil products, but had very limited foreign currency, the

newspaper said.

In a joint venture with the Soviet Union, Vietnam was forecast to produce 2.5 million tonnes of crude oil in 1990 at a field off its southern coast. Most of that will be exported to Japan. Vietnam has no oil refinery and must import all oil products.

A state oil company official estimated in August that Vietnam would need to import three million tonnes of oil products in 1990 and more next year. But he said Hanoi did not have money.

Officials said Vietnam was being badly squeezed by the Gulf crisis since its oil exports did not cover the cost of oil product imports.

The newspaper said the council ordered the ministry of national defence and the interior ministry to take steps to ensure that sufficient oil products are saved for defence and security. It also urged drastic measures against any illegal trade in or theft of oil products.

It said private companies could import their own oil products from foreign companies only under state direction. It said Vietnam would allow some foreign companies to set up their own local agents to sell oil products.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Sunday, October 21, 1990
Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell		Buy	Sell
U.S. dollar	651.0	655.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	516.9	520.0
Pound Sterling	1274.8	1282.4	Dutch guilder	384.6	386.9
Deutschemark	433.5	436.1	Swedish crown	116.6	117.3
Swiss franc	513.1	516.2	Italian lira (for 100)	57.9	58.2
French franc	129.4	130.2	Belgian franc (for 10)	210.5	211.8

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The Municipality of Greater Amman intends to apply part of the proceeds of the above loan to the development of systems of cost accounting study for the technical departments in the Municipality of Greater Amman. Consultant offices may obtain the terms of reference for a non-refundable fee of JD 40 (Forty) J.D. starting on Monday 22/10/1990, from:-

Tenders Department
Municipality of Greater Amman
P.O. Box 132
Amman - Jordan
TLX: 21969 AMCIJO JO
FAX: 6/649420

Documents will be granted free of charge for those who had previously purchased the documents from the Municipality.
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TOM SILK in RUN AWAY

Performances: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:30

Cinema **NIJOM** Tel: 675571

Noor Al Sharif & Bousi in

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Friday & Sunday extra show at 11:00 a.m.

Cinema **PLAZA** Tel: 699238

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KABORIA

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S. African schools vote to admit blacks

CAPE TOWN (R) — South Africa's state-run white schools have begun to exploit a crack in the wall of education apartheid with some voting to admit black pupils next year.

Political analysts had predicted when the option of racially mixed state schools was offered in August that few would meet the government's tough conditions for change.

The government said white parents could vote to make the schools multi-racial if 72 per cent of them approved the change.

White parents have delivered overwhelming majorities at the first eight schools polled to end segregation and some turned in 90 per cent votes.

"This will be a wonderful opportunity for our children to get to know each other as South Africans," said Allan Powell,

headmaster at the Plumstead High School in Cape Town.

Parents at his whites-only school squeaked in with a 74 per cent overall vote in favour of integration from January.

Lou Chaplin, chairman of the school committee, said the vote was a powerful endorsement of non-racism: "It's tremendous. We hope many other schools will follow the example we have set."

Some black parents and teachers were less enthusiastic, saying that South Africa needed a single education authority for all children without the voluntary continuation of apartheid that the government has allowed.

"This means nothing to us. We want all the schools to be equal," said Nozibele Lufefe, who has two children at a shanty school in the KTC squatter camp near Cape Town.

Black school principal Alcott Siwa said black parents could not afford the cost of transport to distant white schools and he wanted to see black schools upgraded.

"Why are they only letting whites decide whether their schools should be opened. We don't want any apartheid," he said.

An association of staff at 80 schools in the Cape Town region said Education Minister Piet Claas's demand for a 72 per cent majority of parental support for change was unrealistic. The majority requires that 80 per cent of parents should vote and that 90 per cent of them should approve desegregation.

Schools in Durban, Port Elizabeth, Uitenhage and Cape Town have already voted for integration from the start of the new school year in January and

hundreds more are due to vote soon.

Every school that has voted has approved desegregation. The poll is not obligatory, however, and most schools in the conservative Transvaal and Orange Free State provinces have not asked for a change in their whites-only status.

Education officials reported recently that white schools had over 250,000 empty desks, while black schools were overcrowded and some used double shifts to accommodate all the children.

White teachers have an average of 19 pupils in each class while black teachers have an average of 40 pupils per class and up to 70 in some rural areas.

Government spending per white child is about four times the amount spent on each black pupil.

Sri Lankan troops reportedly kill 20 rebels in strategic village

COLOMBO (AP) — Government troops captured a strategic coastal village in the north and killed 20 Tamil rebels, officials said Sunday.

The capture of Mawaddipuram would open a passage to Kankesanthurai, a vital, rebel-controlled port one mile away.

There was no immediate response from the rebel group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), to the government claim.

Military officials, who cannot be identified under briefing rules, said three soldiers were killed and

many more were injured Saturday in the taking of Mawaddipuram, 315 kilometres north of Colombo.

Officials said the attack consisted of an aerial, naval and ground assault but did not give details of the fighting.

The said separatist Tamil Tiger militants were holed up in a government-owned cement factory in Kankesanthurai and had effectively sealed the port.

With Mawaddipuram's capture, the military now claims to control a wide swath of the western coast in the Jaffna peninsula,

a predominantly Tamil area and a rebel stronghold. Jaffna town is nine miles south of Mawaddipuram.

The military launched its latest offensive on the peninsula, the most northern part of the island, Wednesday. By Saturday it claimed to control at least eight rebel camps.

Officials said more than 100 militants and 14 soldiers had been killed in fighting until Saturday.

The militia disputed the claim. Rebel leader Lawrence Thilaker said Friday that 50 soldiers and 15 militants had been killed.

Belgium: Rwandan rebels favour ceasefire

BRUSSELS (R) — Belgium said Sunday that more than 200 people had been killed in tribal fighting in Rwanda but that rebels who invaded the former Belgian colony were ready for a ceasefire.

Foreign Minister Mark Eyskens told Belgian Television he had been told in a message from the country Saturday night that the rebels, who invaded Rwanda on Oct. 1, would be ready to agree a ceasefire if government forces did likewise.

He gave no further details. Defence Minister Guy Coeoe told the same programme that 225 people had been killed in tribal fighting.

The rebels, who invaded from neighbouring Uganda, are mainly drawn from the minority Tutsi tribe, which resents the domination of the ruling Hutus in Rwanda.

Belgium said it would keep 600 troops in Rwanda, its former central African colony, until a ceasefire aimed at halting a civil war there took effect.

In his first public remarks since returning Friday from a four-day peace trip to central Africa, Prime Minister Wilfried Martens told parliament Saturday the force's mission to protect Belgian citizens would soon be over.

He also told Belgian Television that he would return to Africa to continue to try to promote an effective ceasefire. The government had been in touch with rebel forces about this.

"Once a ceasefire comes into effect, the presence of our forces on Rwandan soil will no longer be necessary. They will then be withdrawn immediately," Martens told parliament.

Fighting between government forces and the rebels was limited to north-eastern Rwanda.

Zaire, seeking to counter reports that many of its soldiers were killed fighting rebels in Rwanda, said only 10 had died and 13 had been wounded.

It withdrew its forces this week after sending them to help Rwandan President Juvenal Habyarimana. But Habyarimana, speaking during a stopover in Zaire Friday, said this had been done to allow fresh troops to take their place.

He also dismissed reports that Zairean troops had raped and robbed Rwandans. "Our Zairean friends have worked well and we are satisfied with their behaviour," he said after meeting Zairean President Mobutu Sese Seko.

Burmese monks appear to have given in to army

RANGOON (AP) — Rebellious Buddhist monks, their monasteries ringed by troops, appeared Sunday to have given in to an ultimatum by the military government to end their refusal to participate in religious ceremonies with soldiers.

The government empowered army commanders Sunday to try the dissenting monks under martial law.

Reports reaching the Burmese capital of Rangoon from Mandalay, the centre of the defiance campaign, said the monks would end their refusal to minister to soldiers in a formal announcement late Sunday.

In an afternoon broadcast, official Rangoon Radio broadcast a decree by the prime minister, Gen. Saw Maung, empowering army commanders to bring monks before military tribunals for activities deemed disruptive to Buddhism.

The decree said some members of illegal monks' organisations had "been engaging in activities that disrupt the purification, perpetuation and propagation of Buddhism."

"Commanders... have been empowered to investigate, expose and take effective action against such people," the radio said.

Armed troops cordoned off Buddhist monasteries in Mandalay Saturday after the military government said it would dissolve monks' groups involved in the boycott.

A state radio announcement repeated throughout the day Saturday, interspersed with martial music, said "illegal" monks

organisations had been participating in politics, against the rules of Buddhism.

Rangoon Radio said "such illegal organisations" would have to be dissolved by midnight Saturday and that their members be barred from belonging to the Sangha, the main religious governing body in predominantly Buddhist Burma.

At least six major Mandalay monasteries were surrounded by troops and police and closed their gates.

But witnesses contacted by telephone said the gates were opened and monks came out on their morning alms rounds Sunday without interference from the soldiers. Monks traditionally receive offerings of food from the faithful in the early morning.

About 85 per cent of Burma's 40 million people are Buddhist. About 300,000 monks live in monasteries around the country. In Buddhist societies, monks are regarded as spiritual leaders of the community and also play a key role in popular celebrations and various rites.

The groups singled out by the government included the young monks' organisation in Mandalay. On Sept. 6, the organisation announced a boycott of religious ceremonies for soldiers and their families after troops broke up an anti-government protest in the city a month earlier.

During the Aug. 8 demonstration troops killed four people, including two monks, according to Western diplomats in Rangoon. Saw Maung denied that anyone was killed.

Japan stops Taiwanese from landing on disputed islands

TAIPEI (R) — Japan's navy Sunday stopped a team of Taiwan athletes from planting an Olympic torch on a deserted chain of islands whose sovereignty is disputed between Taiwan, China and Japan, news reports said.

Taiwan's state television said at least two Japanese navy ships, backed by a helicopter and an air force jet, prevented that athletes from landing by fishing boat at the Diaoyutai Islands 200 kilometres north of Taiwan.

The Japanese ships broadcast through a loudspeaker that the islands were Japanese territory and refused to give passage to the fishing boat.

The vessel had sailed from Taiwan's northern port of Ilan Sunday to erect the torch as a symbol of Taipei's claim to the islands, the television said.

A boat with Taiwanese reporters was also stopped by a Japanese navy ship at around 1 p.m. (0400 GMT), it said. Other Japanese ships were in the area.

State radio said the boat had requested Taiwan naval support but the navy had not yet responded.

Taipei has not officially sanctioned the trip but county and city officials and sports organisers are aboard.

Patriotic passions have run high in Taiwan for the past week after reports that Japan might

officially recognise a lighthouse built by a Tokyo-based right-wing group called Nihon Seinen in 1978 on one of the islands.

Impassioned legislators have called on the government to send troops to protect its territory and fishermen have offered to surround the islands to prevent Japanese from landing.

Japan also claims the chain, which it calls the Senkakus, and Japanese representatives in Taipei have said Taiwanese would need visas to visit.

China's Foreign Ministry said Thursday the islands have always been Chinese territory and Japan had violated Peking's sovereignty by building the lighthouse.

Sports officials dreamed up the idea of staking Taipei's claim by sending the Olympic torch, which is being carried around Taiwan in preparation for a local sports event.

In Tokyo, a spokesman for the Maritime Safety Agency (coast guard) said the action was carried out by at least one agency patrol vessel on normal patrol near the islands.

No warning shots were fired, the coast guard spokesman said. A spokesman for the Defence Agency said navy vessels and air force aircraft were prohibited from the area and were not present Sunday.

Indian politicians gird for battle over temple

NEW DELHI (R) — A Hindu party leader toured north India in a "war chariot" Sunday as political leaders were girding for a battle on which the government's survival could depend.

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) President Lal Krishna Advani, travelling in a van decorated like a Hindu god's chariot, says the BJP is determined "at any cost" to build a temple on the site of a mosque in the holy town of Ayodhya in Uttar Pradesh.

He told a rally Saturday in neighbouring Bihar state the BJP would withdraw its support for the government if it tried to stop his chariot journey or prevented construction of the temple.

Advani says he and his chariot will join thousands of militant Hindus converging on Ayodhya to start building the temple on Oct. 30.

About 20,000 paramilitary police have been deployed around the 16th century mosque on the disputed site, which some Hindus claim as the birthplace of their revered deity Ram.

Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh, whose minority government has reeled from one crisis to another since coming to power after last November's elections, survives only with the votes of the BJP and the Communists — who detest each other.

Diplomats and politicians are now speculating about another election before the year ends if the BJP withdraws support.

"V.P. Singh must fall," one Asian diplomat said. "I don't see either him or the BJP backing down over the temple issue."

But the government, in a last-ditch effort for a compromise, issued a presidential ordinance Friday taking over the religious site and referred the issue to the supreme court for a quick verdict on who owns the land around the mosque.

BJP officials in Delhi said it was "a small step in the right direction."

Hindus say Ram was born on the site and the Moghul Emperor Babur razed a temple to the God to build a mosque in its place. Ram is the hero of the Ramayana, a beloved Indian epic and a popular tale elsewhere in Asia.

Former Premier Rajiv Gandhi, whose Congress Party was defeated last November, is also touring the heartland of India on what he calls a "goodwill journey."

On Monday Gandhi will be in Bihar, a poor state that has seen horrific religious violence, at the same time as Advani.

More than 1,000 people were killed in Hindu-Muslim riots, mostly in Bihar, when Hindus tried to march on Ayodhya last year.

The Indian People's Front, a militant Communist group allied to the government, on Saturday launched a Hindu-Muslim unity march taking the same route as Advani to Ayodhya.

Malaysian voting ends with high turnout

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — Voting ended Sunday in Malaysia's bitterly contested general election, with officials reporting a high turnout.

Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad's ruling coalition is being challenged by an opposition alliance headed by Razaleigh Hamzah, his former finance minister.

Mahathir campaigned for continuity and stability to ensure economic progress, while the opposition urged voters to "save Malaysia" from human rights abuses and corruption.

About eight million people were eligible to vote in the two-day poll for 180 parliamentary seats and 351 seats in the legislative assemblies of 11 of Malaysia's 13 states.

Officials said that despite rain in some areas up to 70 per cent of voters turned up to cast ballots in 14,645 polling stations in schools and community halls across the country.

"The turnout this morning was quite encouraging, being the weekend," one official said. Security was tight in some areas.

Analysts say the election, called a year ahead of schedule, poses the biggest test yet for the ruling National Front Coalition.

Mahathir, 64, who took office in 1981, is expected to return to power for a third term but could be denied the two-thirds majority he needs to push key bills through parliament, according to the analysts.

The prime minister, accompanied by his wife, voted in his constituency of Kubang Pasu in the northern state of Kedah, where he is being challenged by an opposition candidate.

Mahathir was dealt a sharp blow when the tribally based, predominantly Christian Bersatu Sabah Party (PBS), which controls Sabah state, defected from the ruling coalition to join Razaleigh's opposition.

Razaleigh told reporters: "I feel good. I think we will form the next government and take quite a number of states."

Politically dominant Malays comprise more than half of the country's 17.4 million population and Chinese, who control the economy, a third. Indians and tribal groups make up the rest.

Mazowiecki risks all in election fight with Walesa

WARSAW (R) — Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki, risking all to challenge Lech Walesa in Poland's presidential race, has strongly hinted he will resign as premier if the Solidarity leader beats him in next month's elections.

Mazowiecki, in a weekend campaign swing through the western city of Poznan, accused Walesa of undermining his government with a barrage of hostile criticism.

"Criticism is one thing, but another is the sort of criticism which denies all the achievements of this government or aims at overthrowing the political and economic policy which this government implements," he told journalists.

"If the issue in the campaign is total criticism of this government and promising things which this government is unable to do, then how can you expect that the chief of that criticised government will stay in charge?"

His remarks appeared to scotch suggestions by Walesa that Mazowiecki might agree to stay on as premier even if defeated in the Nov. 25 election.

Walesa has boasted he will win with a heavy majority, but it was Mazowiecki who drew first blood in the campaign when an opinion poll gave him a five-point lead.

At every step of his Poznan campaign, he presented a glaring contrast with the beaming, confident Walesa who came to the city a week earlier.

While Walesa swept in by motorcade, Mazowiecki travelled by second-class train from Warsaw and drove from meeting to meeting in a modest white transit van.

While Walesa whipped up an audience of 7,000 in an energetic two-hour rally, the diffident Mazowiecki gave thoughtful answers to questions from smaller audiences.

His vision of the presidency differed sharply from Walesa's idea of a trouble-shooting sheriff armed with strong powers, including the ability to rule by decree.

"I think democracy is based on balance, the braking of one authority by another. I don't think it's the president's job to run around and control the situation," Mazowiecki said. "This job should be done in such a way that all other institutions of the state can perform their function."

Bush to veto major civil rights bill

WASHINGTON (R) — President George Bush has said he would veto a major civil rights bill he described as a "quota bill" and would return it to Congress with his objections Monday.

The bill, which overrules or modifies a number of Supreme Court decisions that diluted anti-discrimination laws, been approved by the House of Representatives and Senate before being sent to the White House for the president's signature.

But in a letter to Congress released Saturday, Bush said the bill "would lead employers to adopt quotas for hiring and promotion, and it would prevent or discourage some victims of illegal quotas from seeking legal redress."

"The harm this would do to the cause of civil rights is potentially profound. Any measure that causes employment decisions to turn on factors of race, sex, ethnicity, or religion — rather than on qualifications — is fundamentally unfair, and is at odds with our civil rights tradition."

In a separate statement released by the White House Saturday, Bush said: "I believe legislation can be enacted that I can sign before Congress leaves. The bill I am today forwarding to Congress includes those specific changes to

the civil rights act of 1990 that will make it acceptable."

A presidential veto can be overridden by a two-thirds majority vote in both the House and Senate. Congress has failed to override any of Bush's 15 vetoes.

Meanwhile U.S. congressmen said Saturday they were adjusting provisions on Star Wars and other weapons systems in defence bills in an effort to head off a possible veto by Bush.

Republican William Dickinson of Alabama said final details of a \$288.3 billion defence authorisation bill supposedly approved by House and Senate negotiators Thursday were still being worked out because Defence Secretary Dick Cheney threatened to ask Bush to veto it.

"I was told by his administrative assistant that it would be his inclination that he would recommend a veto if the bill stays in its present form," Dickinson said.

He said Cheney's chief objections were to the bill's deep Star Wars cut plus restrictions on the anti-missile research, vague language on the B-2 Stealth bomber, a cut of 100,000 troops, a funding cut for the Milstar military communications system and creation of a new commission to decide which U.S. bases to close.

U.K. government orders police report on tax riot

LONDON (R) — The British government Sunday ordered a full police report into how a peaceful protest against a new local tax turned into a riot for the second time this year.

A Home Office (Interior Ministry) spokeswoman said London's police chief, Sir Peter Inbert, would draw up the report Saturday night's riot in Brixton, south London, in which 12 people were injured and 120 arrested.

Despite a heavy police presence, violence erupted when about 2,000 protesters broke away from a peaceful rally and headed for Brixton jail, where some of the more than 500 people arrested in a previous poll tax riot in London in March are being held.

Deputy Assistant Police Commissioner John Metcalfe denied charges that police provoked Saturday's trouble, and said anarchists bent on violence pelted his officers with bottles, bricks and other missiles.

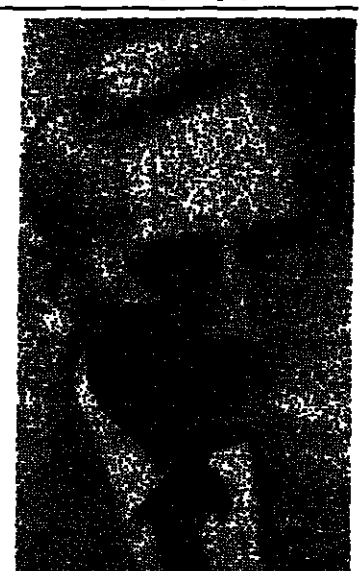
"We started to take missiles being thrown up and we decided obviously to go in and deal with the people who were doing it," he told reporters.

"There is no reason why my officers or anybody else should stand still while people throw things at them."

Six police were among the 12 injured during the rioting. Metcalfe also said some of the protesters had been drinking and urged the government to consider banning future protests against the so-called poll tax, introduced by Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher on April 1 to replace a system of property levies as a way of financing local services.

In the March protest, more than 500 people were arrested and millions of pounds worth of damage was caused as youths rampaged through London's theatre district.

Opponents say the poll tax, officially known as the Community Charge, is levied indiscriminately and does not take into account ability to pay.



Tadeusz Mazowiecki

cluding the ability to rule by decree.

"I think democracy is based on balance, the braking of one authority by another. I don't think it's the president's job to run around and control the situation," Mazowiecki said. "This job should be done in such a way that all other institutions of the state can perform their function."

Displaced Nigerians take case to African court

LAGOS (R) — A Nigerian civil liberties group said it had taken the case of thousands of people still homeless months after their slum homes were demolished to an African court.

Civil Liberties Organisation (CLO) spokesman Mike Ozekehome said he went last week to Banjul, capital of Gambia, to put the case to the African Commission on Human and People's Rights, an arm of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU).

"We are calling for compensation and resettlement for the 15,000 families of Maroko made homeless when it was flattened by bulldozers between July 14 and 25," Ozekehome said Saturday.

Maroko, now a vast stretch of rubble, was a settlement on swamp land between the Atlantic Ocean and the Lagos Lagoon, bordering the capital's high-class Victoria Island residential area.

Its demolition was long planned, but more than 100,000 poor people found themselves without shelter when it was finally ordered at seven days notice by Lagos State Military Governor Raji Rasaki.

A CLO report said that three months later most were refugees in their own country, victims of Nigeria's biggest displacement of people since the 1967-70 civil war.

Many were destitute and malnourished, lived in insanitary conditions without medical care and were victims of police harassment, theft and rape, it said.

Community leader Samuel Aiyeyemi said about 10,000 people were staying temporarily in uncompleted flats at three resettlement sites.

"Not one of us has been compensated or properly resettled," he said.

Meanwhile two political parties created by Nigeria's military government for a handover to civilian rule by 1992 opened their campaigns Saturday for local government elections in December.

The polls will be the first on a party basis since 1983 when a coup ousted only the second elected government in Africa's most populous nation.

"Our struggle is not just to win elections," Babagana Kingibe, national chairman of the left-of-

centre Social Democratic Party (SDP), told a mass rally in Lagos.

"It is to enthronement democracy, freedom and progress (and) equal opportunities for all."

Tom Ikimi, national chairman of the conservative National Republican Convention (NRC), held a similar rally in the northern city of Kaduna to propagate its programme, which extols capitalism as the key to ending widespread poverty.

Both parties were created from scratch by President Ibrahim Babangida who says he wants his military government to be the last in Nigeria, ruled by the military for more than two thirds of its 30 years since independence from Britain.

Babangida's stated aim is to force a break with fraudulent electoral habits based on tribal and religious loyalties.

Many members of both parties are taking him at his word, even though polling will be conducted by open, not secret, ballot.

"I used to support the (Muslim-dominated) National Party of Nigeria out of geopolitical convenience, but we've trans-

cended that now," said the SDP's Sarah Jibril, a former commissioner for social development in northern Kwara state.

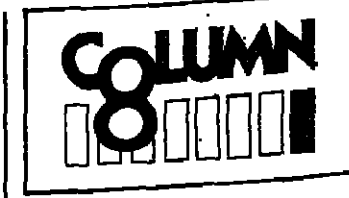
Femi Fani-Kayode, Ikimi's press secretary, said the military was serious about getting out of politics and staying out. "If there is another coup the country will break up, disintegrate," he said.

Fears of a recurrence of the violence which has marred Nigerian politics in the past loomed over the transition to democracy.

The National Electoral Commission, in a ruling last month, said secret balloting had proved too easy to rig and was not trusted by Nigeria's largely illiterate voters. Under the open system, voters will line up behind candidates or their emblems.

Kingibe told the rally that party solidarity would protect people against violence during elections and victimisation afterwards.

One SDP supporter said: "I fear it is not going to work. Once people see you are doing something contrary to their interest, they are prepared to fight it out with you."



2 Live Crew acquitted on obscenity charges

FORT LAUDERDALE, Florida — 2 Live Crew, the U.S. rap group whose racy album As Nasty As They Wanna Be was banned but went on to sell millions of copies, was acquitted here Saturday of obscenity charges stemming from their night-club act.

Band members reacted joyfully to the verdict as one leapt up from the defence table thrusting his fist in the air, giving the black power salute to jubilant supporters. The group was arrested in June after a performance which included frequent rhymed references to sexual activity. "Censorship is to art what lynching is to justice," said Florida defence Attorney Allen Jacob, representing two of three group members charged, told a six-member jury that deliberated for less than three hours before reaching their verdict. "They were just words."

"In this day and age this is just the vernacular of young people. That's the way they talk." The band was arrested outside a Hollywood, Florida, nightclub after a concert in which they performed their syncretized rhymes to an audience that included Broward County police officers armed with tape recorders. The barely audible microcassette recordings introduced as evidence during the five-day trial included impolite references to county Sheriff Nick Navarro, who had vowed to strictly uphold his community's standards of propriety.

Veterans angered by Madonna's latest outfit

NEW YORK (R) — A television appeal to young Americans to vote, with pop star Madonna emerging from a U.S. flag in red bra, panties and combat boots, has ex-servicemen up in arms. Outraged officials of the Veterans of the Foreign Wars (VFW) said the 60-second spot